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Counting Out the Euros in Wages and Jobs

Unions Fear Effect of Big Cost Disparities

By John Vinocur and John Schmid

PARIS - For all the hopes placed in the curo as an economic elixir, the common currency is bringing new ten-sions to the area of salaries and the related concern among trade unions that Europe is heading for a wave of downward competitive bidding on wages and job relocation.

In response, unions are talking for the first time about initiatives that have the outlines of transnational collective bargaining. Specific discussions are under way on how to set cross-border standards oo hours, overtime and minimum wage levels — not so much for unskilled entry-level jobs as for whole industrial sectors such as the automobile industry.

The circumstances are simple: The average liourly cost of industrial labor in the 11 countries of the European Union's single-currency zone varies so much that it seems certain to force a reconsideration of where many man

ufacturers and service providers place their operations and how much they pay their workers.

The average hourly all-inclusive labor cost in manufacturing in 1998 in Germany was 28.68 euros (\$33.07). It was 7.51 euros in Portugal, the lowest among the countries that adopted the

France, based on statistics for the first quarter of last year, was 24 percent below Germany in incustrial hourly wage costs but 31 percent above Spain. Taking the whole year into account. Ireland had labor costs roughly double those of Portugal's but about one-third lower than those in the Netherlands.

These figures, compiled by the EU's statistical agency and recalculated by Rexecode, a French economic-research group, do not constitute a lode-star of sudden business wisdom.

But the numbers' meaning is changing with the presence of the euro, the ease it brings to making comparisons and the inhibitions it removes in

See EURO, Page 10



NATO Chief Warns Serbs And Rebels On Attacks

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS -- In what he called a turning point in the Kosovo crisis, NATO's top official, Secretary-General Javier So-lana, warned both the Serbian authorities and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority that the alliance was ready for military action unless they agreed to the terms and timetable of a plan for peace within a few weeks.

Meanwhile, the terms of the proposed two-track settlement will be set out Frilay in London at a meeting of foreign Group that has piloted international cooperation in the post-Yugoslavia crises — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

The Contact Group will reportedly propose "proximity talks" in which the

In Kosovo, an order to kill 45 ethnic Albanians has been traced to Belgrade. • U.S. jets attacked an Iraqi missile site. Page 10.

Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, and Kosovar leaders of the ethnic Albanians, come to a neutral venne, probahly Geneva, and Western emissaries shuttle between them until an accord can be hammered out.

Both the military and political pressure will be ratcheted up Saturday, officials said, when Robin Cook, Britain's foreign secretary, is expected to fly to Selgrade to deliver the political ultimatum to Mr. Milosevic.

The same day, NATO will reinstate its activation order authorizing immediate air strikes at Serbian targets unless

See KOSOVO, Page 10



ALGERIAN PROTEST - Some of the hundreds of relatives of 'victims of terrorism,' mostly women, demonstrating Thursday at the National Assembly in Algiers to press the government to cancel a law that they said gave equal rights to families of Muslim rebels and their victims in seven years of civil strife.

In Colombia, Aftershocks of Mayhem

ARMENIA, Colombia - President Andres Pastrana took personal com-mand Thursday of the deadlocked earthquake relief operation in western Colombia, sending thousands of soldiers and troops to stop looting by both. survivors and opportunists.

Shouting "We are hungry!" men and women sacked dozens of stores in Armenia, the worst-hit Colombian city, carting away such essentials as drinking water and food, as well as liquor, fur-

The toll from the earthquake that hit Monday reached 878 dead and more than

Cross spokeswoman. The quake measured magnitude 6 on the Richter scale. Search and rescue officials said they

expected the death toll to rise as more debris was cleared and to easily exceed 1,000 in the 17 cities, towns and villages that were rocked by the quake. About 200,000 people were homeless.

President Pastrana rushed to the coffee-growing region, calling in 2,700 soldiers and police to restore order and taking over direction of the relief ef-

The armed forces commander, General Fernando Tapias, declared Armenia under control Thursday, but new looting broke out in the city center, prompting

coordinators showed that more than \$2.7 million in international aid had

Already more than 240 tons of food have been shipped to Armenia, Mr. Pas-trana said, pledging to eliminate delays

niture, TV sets and other goods.

3,410 injured, said Maria Perrelet, a Red

the military police to hurl tear gas. In Geneva, aid agencies said Thurs-day that figures from United Nations

been pledged. · Calling for more aid, Mr. Pastrana said, "The tragedy is so great that on Colombian could imagine it."

in distributing it.

Defense Minister Rodrigo Lloreda

Caicedo said Thursday that Colombia

See QUAKE, Page 10

'We Will Deal With Our History'

Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister, Looks Ahead to Berlin

By Roger Cohen

BONN — Funny place, Germany. An environmentalist is about to direct the country's foreign policy from a Nazi-era Berlin building where Hitler stored gold stolen from Jews and the East German Communist leader Erich Honecker later held court.

"It is a puzzling prospect," said Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, a Green Party leader who will soon move from Bonn to a refurbished ministry in Hitler's former Reichsbank. 'For me the most astonishing thing is that I will actually sit in the office of Mr. Honecker. But we will deal with our history."

Certainly Mr. Fischer has dealt with his own. A revolutionary agitator in the 1960s long known for a disheveled look featuring sneakers, he is now something of a dapper squire with a penchant for three-piece suits and somber ties. Every inch the minister, he sports black shoes that actually gleam.

So, too, do his eyes. During an interview, Mr.

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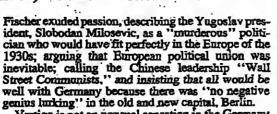
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Vertigo is not an unusual sensation in the Germany of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, a Social Democrat, as taboos tumble, barriers crumble and coyness recedes. Having done the proper thing for decades to prove its post-Holocaust credentials, the country now ns ready to speak its mind.

Nobody more so than Mr. Fischer, who has already cast aside the conventional wisdom of a trade-driven world to lambaste China for its treatment of dissidents: ruffled American feathers by calling on NATO to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons and trashed

See FISCHER, Page 10



Joschka Fischer listening to a debate over Germany's budget in the Bundestag on Thursday.

AGENDA

U.S. General Dubious That North Korea Is Deploying Missiles

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WASHINGTON (AP) - North Ko- had diminished in recent months be rea's military posture has changed little in the last two years and there is no evidence that it is deploying missiles following a long-range firing across Japan in August, the head of U.S.

forces in Korea said Thursday. General John Tilelli said that North Korean military readiness probably suspect of harboring nuclear activity

canse of severe economic problems although the launching showed the the country's efforts to develop missil

technology may have accelerated.

He said he was hopeful North Kore would agree to inspection of under ground facilities that U.S. official

Lobbyists Shape Of	
Books	
Opinion	Pages 6-7.
Sports	
The IHT on-line	www.int.com

Ford Secures Deal To Buy Volvo Cars

U.S. Firm to Pay \$6.5 Billion To Bolster Presence in Europe

		_	
ly	Tom	Buerkle	

LONDON - Ford Motor Co. said Thursday it had agreed to buy the automobile division of Volvo AB for \$6.5 billion, a deal that is expected to strengthen the position of the world's No. 2 automaker and step up the pressure

for further consolidation in the industry.

Faced with the danning investment required to keep its cars competitive and the likelihood of faster consolidation in the auto industry following Daimler-Benz AG's acquisition of Chrysler Corp., Volvo decided its cardivision would prosper best in the hands of Ford, the world's most profitable

It was "a difficult emotional decision to take," the Volvo chief executive, Leif ohanssen, said, but based on the numbers, "this is a very good transaction."

Volvo will now concentrate its resources oo developing its heavy truck and bus division, which ranks second in the world, as well as subsidiaries that make construction equipment and marine engines.

The Ford agreement culminated weeks of intensive bargaining over Volvo Cars, with the American company prevailing over a bid from Fiat SpA of Italy.

The acquisitioo would make Ford the

second-largest automaker in Europe, where its sales and profitability have flagged in recent years, and bring it younger, upscale customers in the United States, where Volvo has a sig-nificant and loyal following. "Volvo has a world-class reputation

for safety, quality, durability and environmental responsibility, all of which are attributes that are increasingly important to our customers," said Jacques Nasser, chief executive of Ford.

"This fits perfectly well," said John Lawson of Salomon Smith Barney Inc. in London. "This is the most obvious buyer and the most obvious seller in the

Volvo sold 400,000 cars last year, or less than I percent of the global market. To remain competitive it would have needed to invest heavily in new models and new technologies such as lean-burning engines and fuel cells. "We were looking at big chal-

lenges," Mr. Johanssen said. In contrast, Ford has some of the deepest pockets of any corporation. The company sold 6.8 million cars in 1998, had an operating profit of \$6.57 hillion and has cash assets of nearly \$24 hil-

The world's automakers have embarked on a crash course in consolidation, fueled by the DaimlerChrysler deal. Excess capacity is estimated at as much as 25 million vehicles a year

DaimlerChrysler and Renault SA of France are in talks with Nissan Motor Co. that could result in one of them buying a controlling stake in the No. 2 Japanese automaker. General Motors Corp., the world's largest automaker, is reportedly considering buying the 50 percent of Saab Automobile AB, Sweden's other automaker, that it does not already own.

Analysts and investment bankers said the Volvo purchase would focus greater attention on medium-sized automakers such as Fiat and PSA Pengeot Citroen of

But future deals may prove more difficult. Any combination within Europe would require politically difficult cuts in production and employment, issues that prevented Volvo from merging

See VOLVO, Page 10

	The Dollar	
New York	Thursday 6 4 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.1416	1.1435
Pound	1.6493	1.6845
Yen	116.35	115,72
DM	1.713	1.7104
FF	5.7452	5.7364
Doffers per po	und and per surp	-
	The Dow	
	Thursday close	percent change
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	S&P 500	

On-Line Records

1.265.36

+ 1.78%

+ 22.13

The Securities and Exchange Commission has reported a record amount of on-line trading — and a record number of complaints from small investors. Page 17.

Senate Heading For a Timetable To Finish Trial In Mid-February

By Brian Knowlton

WASHINGTON - Senators were struggling Thursday to reach agreement oo a timetable to end the impeachment trial of President Bill Clintoo quickly, but they appeared to be on track for a mid-February completion date. And the White House indicated a cautious readiness to accept a draft plan if its legal options were kept open.

'We've been making progress,' the majority leader, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, said as the trial session

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Republicans press on, risking political damage. Page 3.

was convened and then immediately adjourned to allow negotiations to con-

An hour later, Mr. Lott said he expected closed-door interviews between lawyers and three witnesses to begin Sunday and conclude by Tuesday. The chamber then adjourned again.

The White House legal team, comforted by the virtual certainty that the trial will end with President Clintoo's acquittal, appeared cautious almost to the point of indecision about how to proceed, wary of any misstep at a crit-

Bot a White House spokesman exressed adamant opposition to a Republican proposal to give senators a chance to find Mr. Clinton guilty of the charges against him — perjury and obstruction of justice — without removing him from office. "What they're trying to do, in a

See CLINTON, Page 3

Bomb Kills 8 in China, **But Beijing Stays Silent**

By Erik Eckholm New York Times Service

BEIJING - An explosion this week in a county seat in southeastern China killed at least eight people and injured more than 60, according to local of-

The cause of the blast on Monday has not been determined, officials say, but a local journalist said there was evidence that it was inteotional, and one doctor said victims had nails in their wounds. There has been no announcement of a suspect or a motive.

The blast in Yizhang, along the south-ern border of Hunan Province, only became widely known after a brief account appeared Wednesday night in a major newspaper in neighboring Guangdong Province. As of Thursday evening, China's official national news agency and Beijing newspapers had still not reported it.

The explosion occurred just after 11:00 A.M. in front of a row of grocery stalls and almost across the street from month in Hunan Province, which has the county government office, a local television editor said in a telephone in-

terview. The explosioo left remnants of victims' clothing hanging in the trees, according to the article Wednesday night in the Yangcheng Evening News, published in Guangzhou. An official of the county hospital

confirmed by telephone that eight people had died, one on the scene of the hlast and seven more at the hospital. A doctor at another nearby hospital, the Traditional Medicine Hospital, told Reuters news agency that nine had died.

He also said there were nails in the victims' wounds, suggesting the possibility of a homemade nail bomh. Reached by telephone, an official of the Yizhang Public Security Bureau would only say the case "is still under investigation."

But an editor with the local cable television station, Zong Zhijun, said: "Preliminary investigation has found that the explosion was intentional and that hand-made explosives were

The explosion was the second this

See CHINA, Page 10







What the bid commit-

For the Latin Ameri-

terpreter and to be a host-

"I had a beautiful

She said she was not

A New Breed of Lobbyists Shapes the Olympics

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

ORONTO After Salt Lake City lost the 1998 Winter Olympics to Nagano, Japan, the Salt Lake Olympic organizers vowed to change their strategy for the 2002 Games. One of their first moves was to hire a former member of Egypt's national volleyball team who had close personal contacts with athletic officials in North Africa

The former volleyball Mahmoud Farnawani, a 65-year-old sports souvenirs salesman, is one of a new breed of global lobbyists playing an increasingly influential role in decisions about where 10 stage the

Olympics, Salt Lake City officials had ample reason to believe Mr. Farnawani could help them. After he worked as a volunteer for Toronto during its unsuc-

cessful campaign to wio the 1996 Summer Games, the Australian Olympic Committee paid him \$60,000 to help Sydney secure the 2000 Summer

He earned his biggest payday so far, \$161,000, from Salt Lake City for his efforts to secure votes from North African delegates.

In a series of interviews, he compared his work to that of a lohbyist astutely identifying the preferences of key lawmakers. He explained, for instance, that he has used his knowledge of committee members to counsel hidders for the Olympics about how to use the informacioo to their advantage. The information is often personal.

"Is he happily married or is he oot?" Mr. Farnawani said, offering an example of information he might provide. "How many children does he have? Is he a religious person or oot? What kind of food does he eat, what kind of subjects not to

HE BACKSTAGE role played by people like Mr. Farnawani has only recently come to light. Now Olympic officials are scrambling to determine just how many of the consultants have been at work behind the scenes and if they might have ever gone too far. Investigations into Salt Lake City's payment of cash and gifts to Olympic committee members have oot accused Mr. Farnawani or other similar lobbyists of wrong-doing, oor has anyone accused them of hreaking any

laws or acting improperly.

But the North Africans courted by Mr. Farnawani have figured prominently in the Olympic movement's receotly released report on abuses by Salt Lake City. A son of Libya's Olympic delegate received a scholarship to a Utah university and \$700 a month in payments. A Sudanese delegate received \$75,000 in cash

Mr. Farnawani, who is not currently working for any city, said he did not know of these arrangements and was surprised to read about them in oews accounts. The Libyan delegate resigned from the was expelled from it Sunday.

Olympic officials said they were determined to impose much stricter rules oo the lobbyists. Speaking generally of the lobbyists, Richard Pound, the senior Olympic official who cooducted the In-ternational Olympic Committee's investigation into wrongdoing surrounding Salt Lake's efforts, said he and others were troubled by their work.

"We are looking into this issue of the so-called

agents, who prey on the vulnerabilities and naïveté of bidding cities, "Mr. Pound said. "By the time we are through with so-called Olympic agents, I doubt that it will be a profitable business — if it ever was."

Mr. Pound's report on the Salt Lake hid did oot

accuse Mr. Farnawani of any specific wroogs.
Until the receot revelations, Olympic bids were



Mahmoud Farnawani, one of a new breed of Olympic lobbyists, worked for Salt Lake City.

awarded by a secret vote of the IOC, which comprises more than 100 delegates. As they competed, officials seeking the games for a certain city found themselves pondering how they might sway a particular Olympic official.

The lobbyists were not bashful.

Doug Gatlin, executive director of Atlanta's sucessful effort to stage the 1996 Summer Games, recalled that local officials were besieged by middlemen. He said one offered to deliver votes for a fee of \$250,000.

become a bid city' in advance of the voting, Mr. Gatlin recalled. "They are subtle. They say they can offer introductions, get you to the right people."

Lobbying by a city competing to host the Games has been around for a loog time, but the use of outsiders paid large amounts of money is a receot phenomenon growing as the Games have become

phenomeoon, growing as the Games have become more profitable for the cities.

Mr. Farnawani is only one of several plying the trade. Salt Lake City used at least two other middlemen, a Kuwaiti and a Utah businessman. Sydney also had two other lobbyists, one of whom handled

Albright Asks Arab Aid In Ending Saddam Rule

She Stops in Jordan to Support New Heir

By Thomas W. Lippman
Weshington Past Service

AMMAN, Jordan — On a quick swing through Arab capitals that ended here, the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright; assured friendly leaders Thursday that the United States was serious about ending Saddam Hussein's rule in Iraq and select for their assistance. and asked for their assistance.

She told them the new U.S. policy, which she described as "cootainment plus regime change," represented a long-term commitment by the Clinton administration to combine military, political, economic and diplomatic pressure on Mr. Saddam, according to senior officials traveling with her.

The stop in Jordan was added to her schedule to show sopport for Crown Prince Abdullah, who was sworn in Wednesday as his father, King Hussein, returned to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for a new round of cancer treatment.

for a new round of cancer treatment.

"I wanted to stop here in order to make very clear that the U.S. stands with Jordan." Mrs. Albright said after her talks with Abdullah. She said Washington looked forward to the king's recovery, but U.S. officials pointedly expressed confidence in Abdullah's abilities and insisted they expected no change in Jordanian policy if the prince, a career soldier, became king.

a career soldier, became king.

Atthoogh it was essentially a courtesy call, Mrs. Albright said she and the crown prince talked briefly about Iraq, and she repeated to him that "our policy is to cootain Saddam and work toward

regime change there.

Her public comments and background briefings by senior aides underlined the extent to which Washington's strategy for dealing with Iraq has changed since Mr. Saddam cut off UN weapons inspections last year. Convinced that no credible inspection system can be reinstated while Mr. Saddam rules Iraq, the United States is marshaling resources to get rid of him, and until he is onsted it will use military force to keep him from making trouble.

"The Iraqi people deserve better leadership," Mrs. Albright told U.S. troops Thursday morning at the Prince Sulfan Air Base, in the desert south of Riyadh. "We are dedicated to that mis-

Riyadh. "We are dedicated to that mission, and we don't give up before the job is finished. So it's not going to be real soon that you're out of here, but it is very important that you are here."

On Wednesday, Mrs. Albright reviewed the new policy with the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, and Foreign Minister, Amr Moussa. She then flew to Riyadh, Sandi Arabia, for talks with Crown Prince Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz and Poreign Minister Sand aldulaziz and Foreign Minister Sand al-Faisal that lasted well past midnight.

Given the half-hearted and fitful U.S. attempts to build up opposition to Mr. Saddam this new policy has been greeted with skepticism in the Arab world.

Thursday morning, two Saudi-owned newspapers in London quoted an unidentified Saudi official as saying the the kingdom opposed any foreigo role in changing Iraq's government and that any change should "take place from within Iraq and by the people them-

dinton Ca

Senior U.S. officials did not claim that Mr. Mubarak or Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia endorsed the U.S. campaign or offered to help, but they said leaders of both countries were sympathetic to the idea that Iraq's people, isolated and impoverished by years of tight economic sanctions, deserved new leadership. They said Mr. Mubarak and Prince Abdullah asked them not to say anything about what assistance, if any.

they promised to provide.
"What I heard at the last two stops is a deep conviction that the only way out is a change of regime, 'a senior official said after Mrs. Albright left Saudi Arabia. Judging from the private comments of administration officials, as well at from recent public remarks by Mrs.

Albright and General Anthony Zinni, commander of the Southern Command, commander of the Southern Command, the Clintoo administration appears convinced that Mr. Saddam was seriously weakened inside Iraq by U.S. air strikes last month. U.S. officials also said the Iraqi leader undercut his political stature throughout the Arah world with his recent calls for the overthrow of the Egyptian and Saudi leaders. Further, U.S. officials said the reputation of Iraq's exile opposition for fecklessness and ineptitude is undeserved.

There is serious opposition to Saddam Hussein inside Iraq, people are paying with their lives every day," a senior official said. "And ootside there are many groups that have links inside Iraq, pdo can communicate a pers vice. Iraq, who can communicate a new vision of Iraq" to their sympathizers at home. "People go in and oot. The gime can't stop that."

Mrs. Albright introduced the Egyptian and Saudi leaders to Frank Ricciandana whom the magniful appointed

ciardone, whom she recently appointed as special representative for the tran-sition of Iraq, funded by Congress with \$97 million. Mr. Ricciardone, who will coordinate the effort to organize the opposition, understands the difficulty of his task. As deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Turkey, he was responsible for evacuating thousands of CIA-sponsored Iraqi dissidents when Mr. Saddam s troops overran their operations in northern Iraq in 1996.

King Hussein "Feeling Better"

King Hussein was "feeling better"
Thursdayafter spending his first night at
the Mayo Clinic, Reuters reported. A
senior Jordanian official said doctors. would decide soon whether to proceed with a bone marrow transplant. "We do not know yet but they will decide in the next few days," the official said.

August Everding, 70, Director Of Bavaria's State Theater, Dies

MUNICH - August Everding, 70, who served as Bavaria's state theater director since 1982 and also produced operas in New York, died late Tuesday. ARD-TV news said the cause of

death was cancer. ' Dubbed the "friendly despot," Mr. Everding was known for his strong personality and sometimes impish ideas. His many productions included stints at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He co-designed Wagner's "Lohen-grin" in the 1970s and he directed Mod-

est Mussorgsky's "Khovanshchina." He was also artistic director for the German display at the world's fair in Hannover in 2000.

Charles Luckman, 89, Architect LOS ANGELES (Renters) — Charles Luckman, 89, the entrepreneur and architect once described as the boy wonder of American business."

died Tuesday. Mr. Luckman was trained as an ar-

chitect but first found success in the soap business. Time magazine put the soap salesman on its cover in 1937 as the "boy wonder" of American industry.

In 1950, he established his architecthre firm in Los Angeles, where he mixed his design ideas with conservative husiness principles, introducing market research to architecture. He helped design the Prudential Center in Boston, New York's Madison Square Garden, and several Los Angeles landmarks.

Thomas C. Mann, 87, Diplomat WASHINGTON (NYT) — Thomas C. Mann, 87, a career diplomat and an architect of a switch in the 1960s to a U.S. foreign policy in Latin America emphasizing free enterprise, died Saturday at his home in Austin, Texas.

He played important foreign policy roles involving many countries. In 1964 he arranged help for Eduardo Frei Montalva, a moderate, in defeating Salvador Allende Gossens, a Socialist, to become president of Chile.

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TRAVEL UPDATE

Road to Inca Ruins In Peru Is Blocked

LIMA (AP) — A flood caused by a landslide has blocked the train to the lncan ruins of Machu Picchu, cutting the lncan ruins of Machu Picchu from the lncan ruins of Machu Picchu, cutting the lncan ruins of Machu Picchu from the lncan ruins of Machu Picchu from ruins of Machu Picchu fro

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only land route to Peru's top tourist attraction. Tourists can only reach the ruins high in the Andes mountains by taking a helicopter, which costs three times as much as the train trip, the

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Peter Catronis models, an 11 year track record and all

nder 5 Manager price data for performance verification For This Free Report and Our Services Guide Call To5-Free (2Ahrs)

Forex Capital Management

(350 miles) southeast of Lima, will be suspended for at least 20 days while workers repair the track, a Transport Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Boost for Asia Tourism SINGAPORE (AP) - Southeast

Asia is still a safe place for tourists, despite negative publicity stemming from turnoil in some parts of the area, regional officials said Thursday. Ministers from the Association of

South East Asian Nations were gathering to find ways to bolster the flagging tourist business in the area. The ministers also pledged to ac-celerate liberalization of investment in

tourism-related businesses across Southeast Asia. U.S. students planning to spend

spring hreak in the Caribbean resort of Cancun, Mexico, are being warned to keep their fun under control. The tourism office of Quintana Roo State is starting an ad campaign aimed at quelling "im-proper behavior," officials said. (AP)

A month after a tourist was fatally injured at Disneyland, the theme park

in Anaheim, California, is beginning a ride-by-ride review of how all its attractions are run.

morning of the vote in a letter.
"This morning," read the letter, "Mahmoud el-Farnawani is meeting with you with full authority to

commit me in respect to any assistance you identi-fy." Mr. Farnawani said he could not account for

votes of the five members from the Arab states of

North Africa: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and

Two of those delegates have been caught in the scandal. Bashir Attarabulsi, from Libya, resigned after it was divulged that his son had received a scholarship and \$700 a mouth in expense money

from the Salt Lake City bid committee. And Zein El Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir, of Sudan, was expelled

after investigators concloded that he received more than \$25,000 from the Salt Lake City hid committee

Mr. Farnawani described both men as his good

friends and he denied knowing anything about the

payments.

'These people,' Mr. Farnawani said of the committee members, 'I knew them for a long time, so they will oot do anything to hurt their image before

me. Nobody will dare to ask for anything like that from me. And the bid city oever asked me to do this

Mr. Farnawani's lawyer, David Goodman, asserted that the agents were being made scapegoats.

Mr. Goodman said there was nothing wrong with a

for his personal benefit.

kind of thing."

FTER SYDNEY'S close victory, Mr.

Farnawani won a recommendation that led to his being hired by the Salt Lake City

bid team. His task was to lobby for the

Cyprus Airways planes were grounded Thursday for four hours when employees went oo strike to press for high-



Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccalWeather.

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Clinton Case Focuses On Obstruction Charge

Witnesses Were Chosen to Support That Count

By Eric Schmitt New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — House Republican prosecutors say they have chosen lican prosecutors say they have chosen three witnesses who can help them make the broadest and strongest case that President Bill Clinton obstructed in New York and buy her sidence. justice, the impeachment article that has drawn the most interest from senators of

both parties.

When the trial started three weeks ago, the House prosecutors were sure that their best chance of convicting Mr. Clinton lay in convincing the senators that the president had lied under oath before a federal grand jury about his relationship with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

But since then, senators squeamish about the sexual aspects of the perjury charge have focused on obstruction of justice as the article most likely to rise to the level of an impeachable offense. The question now, in many senators' minds, is "Did it happen?

"Some of us feel very strongly about the second count, and we need witnesses to belp on that," said Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon, one of the 56 senators — all but one of them Republicans — who voted Wednesday in favor of subpoenaing Ms. Lewinsky, the president's confident Vernon Jordan Jr. and the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal.

The obstruction article charges Mr. Clinton with having encouraged Ms. Lewinsky to file a false affidavit in the sexual-misconduct lawsuit filed against the president by Paula Jones and to conceal gifts he had given Ms. Lewinsky. It contends that the president enlisted Mr. Jordan's help in finding Ms. Lewinsky a job to buy her cooperation in the Jones sait, and it accuses the president of attempting to influence the testimony of his secretary, Betty Currie, and yop aides such as Mr. Blumenthal.

"The senators seem to relate the perjury charge to sex and the president's twisting definitions," said Representative Ed Bryant, Republican of Tennessee, the House manager who will question Ms. Lewinsky. "It's an easier seli job with obstruction of justice. It's about

a cover-up. Representative Asa Hutchinson, Republican of Arkansas, the manager who will interview Mr. Jordan, said, "Obstruction of justice is extraordinarily compelling and goes to the heart of our

judicial system. Under pressure from Senate Republicans, the House prosecutors pared their wish list of witnesses from 15 to five and finally to three.

In the end, they left out the one witoess whom many Republicans had considered a secret weapon - Mrs. Comie - disappointing some senators who apparently believed she had the most po-

tential to clarify factual discrepancies. "It was a question of making judicious decisions as to which witnesses would give us the best chance to try to convert people into a vote for conviction." said Representative George Ge-

rding, 70, Directe

- State Theater !!

kas, Republican of Pennsylvania. Ms. Lewinsky is the managers' star witness and had a guaranteed spot in the lineup. But the managers shuffled and reshuffled their final two choices as they gauged both the mood of the Senate and their own analysis of which witnesses

They decided to drop Mrs. Curie, some managers said Wednesday, because the secretary's testimony about the president's recollections of his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky seemed immovable. Mr. Clinton's lawyers have repeatedly insisted that Mrs. Currie testified that she Adid not feel pressured when Mr. Clinton uttered a series of statements about Ms. Lewinsky in which be claimed to Mrs. Currie that they were never alone.

could swing wavering senators.

House prosecutors have interpreted the president's actions as witness-tampering, saying Mr. Clinton was coaching Mrs. Currie about what to say if she were ever called as a witness.

The prosecutors also said they did not need Mrs. Currie's deposition because, in their view, Ms. Lewinksy's testimony was sufficient to support their accusations that Mr. Clinton had directed Mrs. Currie to pick up gifts that were under subpoena by the lawyers for Mrs. Jones. Privately, some said a reason Mrs.

Currie was not called is that the prosecutors, already reviled in the public view according to many opinion polls, did not want to be seen as grilling a sympathetic African-American woman in the Senate.

Senate Republicans, including Susan Collins of Maine and Paul Coverdell of Georgia, expressed surprise and disappointment that the managers had de-

cided not to summon Mrs. Currie. Democratic senators accused the managers of disregarding their pretext

Man With Explosives Is Arrested at Senate

Washington Post Service WASHINGTON - A Maryland man with tickets to the Senate impeachment trial was arrested last week when he tried to bring a bag containing an 18-inch knife and two explosives into the Capitol, according to authorities.

Capitol police stopped Walter Wilson Johnson, 36, on Jan. 20 when they checked the bag on an X-ray machine, officials said Wet-nesday. At the time, President Bill Clinton's lawyers, led by his special counsel Gregory Craig, were presenting their second day of opening arguments before a crowded Senate chamber. Mr. Johnson told the police he kept

the knife for "protection," authorities said.

Capitol police said a search of Mr. Johnson's bag also turned up two M-60 explosive devices, a "terrorist handbook," weapons price lists, an article on the Oklahoma City bombing, survivalist materials and a Soldier of Fortune magazine.



Democratic senators lining up to speak to reporters outside the Senate's chambers after the vote to call witnesses in the Clinton impeachment trial. From left are Max Baucus of Montana, Charles Schumer of New York, Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and Christopher Dodd of Connecticut.

Republicans Press On, Risking Political Damage

By Dan Balz

for calling witnesses - to clarify con-

The prosecutors opted to summon Mr. Jordan instead of Mrs. Currie to

Finally, the managers had to choose between Mr. Blumenthal and John

Podesta, the White House chief of staff,

as to who would best illustrate the ac-

cusation that Mr. Clinton lied to his

aides in an attempt to influence their

possible testimony about his relation-ship with Ms. Lewinsky.

Mr. Blumenthal told the grand jury that the president had at first described Ms. Lewinsky as a "stalker" and said she had "threatened" to tell people "they'd had an affair." Those descriptions also

were used by some House prosecutors to

try to prove that the White House had

employed a strategy of leaks or spreading negative stories about opponents or po-

flicting testimony.

WASHINGTON - Senate Republicans find themselves in an excruciating position, torn between the judgment of the majority of the American people and the passions of their most conservative loyalists. A year and six days after the Monica Lewinsky story

broke, President Bill Clinton got an official reprieve Wednesday, despite condemnations of his conduct.

Although the Senate refused to dismiss the case ainst the president, not even the most vehement Clinton opponent believes 11 Democratic votes for

conviction will materialize in the coming days. But in the face of that reality, Republicans unanimously decided Wednesday to press forward with depositions from three witnesses - even though a number of Republican senators had registered reservations about that course within the last few days.

Why did they feel compelled to keep going?
"One thing Republicans in the Senate can't do is throw a hand grenade at the feet of their own base," said the party consultant Ralph Reed.

But the need to assuage those conservatives comes at a growing price. With the trial's outcome now apparent, the longer it drags on, the more potential damage Republicans inflict upon themselves — hoth in the elections of 2000 and in the eyes of history. As John Pitney, a professor at Claremont McKenna College in California, put it, "Right now, people think

Continued from Page 1

can convict the president but not remove him," said the

White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart. He added,

"The constitution is clear: The Senate has one role,

that will not allow Mr. Clinton to claim exoneration or

vindication, it was unclear how the matter would be

nesday made it clear that there was virtually no chance

that a split had emerged among Mr. Clinton's legal

team over how vigorously to press the defense strategy

at a time when the endgame was clearly in sight.

With strong Republican support for a final outcome

The nearly party-line margin during two votes Wed-

Mr. Lockhart also denied a New York Times report

Mr. Lott and his Democratic counterpart, Secator

Tom Daschle of South Dakota, along with other Senate

leaders have been locked in a series of meetings,

hammering out proposals to conclude the trial by mid-

be made of the depositions of Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose sexual relationship

Jordan Jr., the Washington attorney and Clinton

friend who tried to help Ms. Lewinsky find a job, and

The depositions will involve sworn testimony by the

Democrats, who have strenuously opposed the call-

ing of any witnesses, presumably were concerned that

in the event of unfavorable testimony, videotapes

would have a greater impact on senators than written

but to call the three witnesses. Those votes, almost

precisely on party lines, left the Senate unsure exactly

how to proceed with the questioning of winesses, the form in which their testimony will be presented to

White House lawyers had told Mr. Daschle that they

would accept an accelerated trial schedule if no dam-

aging new information emerged from the three wit-

nesses and if there is no live testimony before the Senate, senior presidential advisers told The Asso-

The Clintoh team reportedly wants to reserve an

Mr. Lockhart said that Republican proposals to vote.

opportunity to review documents and possibly call its

senators and what additional votes will be taken.

The Senate voted Wednesday not to dismiss the trial

three before House "managers" prosecuting the case, members of Mr. Clinton's legal team and one senator

with the president sparked impeachment; Vernon

Sidney Blumenthal, a White House adviser.

from each party.

ciated Press.

Mr. Lott said Democrats did not want videotapes to

which is to convict and remove" or to acquit.

Mr. Chinton would be removed from office.

Nothing is likely to change that impression between

House Republicans created this problem, but Senate Republicans are responsible for trying to solve it. And the more they attempt to accommodate the House varive base - on procedural ques-

tions, they more they risk reinforcing ANALYSIS the partisan divisions that have marked the impeachment process since it was begun in

and complete trial," he said.

But historians said Wednesday that the continued.

Dallek, a historian and presidential biographer, "for historians to take the Republican argument about the

Pointing to the dismissal vote Wednesday, he added: "Is it conceivable that all but one Democrat, Wisconsin

CLINTON: Senate Continues Jousting on Trial Timetable

very political way, is construct a procedure where they were unacceptable.

Republicans, however, appeared unwilling to accept a trial plan that does not give them the opportunity to express a view on Mr. Clinton's guilt in first denying and then misrepresenting his relationship with Ms.

They fear that there is no certainty to a vote on censure that would come after Mr. Clinton's expected acquittal. A censure, in any case, could be reversed by a future Senate.

Democrats have continued to work on the language of a censure resolution, which would condemn the president's conduct while avoiding legally charged words like "guilt" or "convict."

"I think there is a widespread feeling on both sides of the aisle that some expression of the mappropriateness of the behavior is a good idea," said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky. Mr. Lockhart conceded that the Republicans' 55-to-

45 majority in the upper chamber would allow them to pursue the two-vote strategy if they chose. A simple majority of 51 votes would be required to approve such. an approach. Sixty-seven votes are needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office if all 100 senators are

The White House took heart at the Senate vote Wednesday on dismissal of the trial, which was defeated, 56-to-44, but showed that Republicans had virtually no chance of attaining the two-thirds vote needed to remove Mr. Clinton from office.

White House lawyers are deeply concerned bowever, about the possibility that the president might be tarred with something resembling a criminal conviction for perjury and obstruction of justice, particularly since he will be vulnerable to criminal prosecution once be leaves office.

A proposal along these lines was advanced by Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, who is part of a small working group appointed by Mr. Lott to seek ways in which senators can express their condemnation of Mr. Clinton short of removing him from

A Democratic senator, Richard Bryan of Nevada, said such a vote would seem to skirt the constitution. "We should not be able to do by majority vote what the constitution contemplates by a two-thirds vote," he

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, a Republican and the influential chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on Thursday strongly supported a "finding of fact" vote. "I've been arguing for that type of a vote for a long time," be said. "I think that's a legitimate, reasonable

Senator Russell Feingold, were on the wrong side of the rule of law and all the Republicans were on the right of impeachment and Republicans in the same

side of the rule of law? It just doesn't measure up. now and the end of the trial The historian Michael Beschloss agreed that the party-line vote on dismissal, which may foreshadow a largely partisan division on conviction or acquittal at the trial's end, had made it more difficult for historians managers - and their own conser-

Mr. Reed said most conservatives were resigned to an outcome that leaves Mr. Clinton condemned in some fashion but still in office. "I think they're not seeking to hold Republican senators' feet to the fire on conviction, but on a display of moral courage and a fair

partisan divisions over whether Mr. Clintoo should be impeached and convicted for his conduct in the Lewinsky matter risked stamping the whole process as a bitter political fight, not a reasoned, legal process.
"It's going to be all the more difficult," said Robert

rule of law all that seriously,"

of the future to judge the impeachment of Mr. Clinton as entirely legitimate. "It makes it tougher for the impeachment and the

trial to look good before the bar of history," he said Mr. Beschloss said it was far from clear how history would judge the past year. 'Will they say Bill Clinton was unfairly persecuted or will they say this was a case where Republicans in the House and Senate stood up

interests?" be asked. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that a few Republicans will vote against convicting Mr. Clinton on the two articles of impeachment when the Senate finally votes. But that may be more helpful to the defectors and their own political standing than to the

for a matter of principle that was against their political

rty as a whole. Many Democratic strategists bave long sensed that the House vote to impeach Mr. Clinton presented Democrats with a win-win situation. They argue that a short Senate trial leading to Mr. Clinton's acquittal would undermine the legitimacy of the House vote. But a long Senate trial, they said, could damage the Republicans even more than events already have.

To some analysts, the Republicans' decision to depose witnesses represents the funher isolation of separately on Mr. Clinton's guilt regarding the charges facing him and whether to remove him from office power in the 1994 elections.

Many Republican governors, while coodemning the president's conduct, have warned for weeks that the

Senate should find a quick way to end the trial.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, has labored mightily to satisfy his divided party. The question is whether his efforts to reach across party lines on procedural issues will be washed away by

mostly party-line votes on the key issues. The challenge for Mr. Lott and other Republican leaders is clear. Having corralled moderate Republican votes to compel the testimony of Ms. Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan and the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal to satisfy the party's ideological wing, they must now engineer a conclusion that restores the confidence of the American people that the party is listening to them as well.

POLITICAL

Bush Is Still Sitting Firmly on the Fence

AUSTIN, Texas — Governor George Bush, who has sometimes expressed discomfort with the relentless speculation over whether he will run for president in 2000, brought the matter up himself in his State of the State address, saying legislators should seize this " tional spotlight" to teach Washington lawmakers a thing or two.

'I have been asked about it, you have been asked about it," Mr. Bush told the legislators. "You didn't ask for it, but it is here anyway.

'And we can either view it as a distraction or seize it as an opportunity to show the world what limited and constructive government looks like."

The 31 members of the state Senate, which the Republicans control by one vote, joined the 150 members of the House of Representatives.

where the Democrats have an eight-vote majority, to hear Mr. Bush. Widely regarded as the front-runner in the race for the Republican presidential nomination next year, the governor has said be will not announce whether he will run until March or April, when he will either establish an exploratory committee, say he is definitely in the race or take himself out of it.

Mr. Bush has played host in recent weeks to a stream of potential fund-raisers and presidential advisers— to help him make up his mind, he has said— and political professionals in several states have said be has asked them not to commit to another Republican candidate until be makes his decision.

"People keep asking me, will I or won't I?" be said Wednesday. "The big answer to the question is, I really don't know yet." (NYT)

Help for Workers

WASHINGTON — Aiming to improve workers' skills, President Bill Clinton is proposing \$965 million in new and increased spending to retrain dislocated workers, teach illiterate adults to read and increase job opportunities for at-risk youth.

The latest details from the budget that Mr. Clinton outlined in his State of the Union address include increased grants for adult literacy programs, a toll-free number that connects displaced workers to unemployment and retraining resources and \$50 million to create jobs for disadvantaged youngsters.
The proposals call for \$190 mil-

lion in increased spending in fiscal 2000 over last year's figures for programs, \$368 million more for job retraining assistance and \$405 million to increase youth employ-

Quote/Unquote

Paul Begala, a White House adviser, reacting to a suggestion that Republican senators owed it to their House colleagues not to dismiss the impeachment case: "That's like saying the Titanic owed something to the iceberg."

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AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Janitorial Service for the Northwest Concourse Hong Kong International Airport

The Airport Authority is responsible for the management and operation of Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok. Hong Kong has tha world's fifth busiest international airport, tha new Hong Kong Internetional Airport has the capacity to cater for 35 million pessenger in its first year of operation with an on-airport work force of around 45,000 employees.

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The Authority is looking for a substantial janitorial servica organisation to undertake this contract. Parties interested in this opportunity can ragister with the Authority, in writing, for an Expression of Interest Document. This document asks a series of questions, responses to which must be received by 1 p.m. on 26 February 1999. Late returns will not be considered. Responses will be evaluated in order to draw up a short list of potential contractors. To receive a copy of the Expression of Interest Document, please contact :

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All cost associated with any submission in response to this notice shall ba entirely the responsibility of the organisation(s) concerned. The Authority raservas the right to reject any application at its discration and without





Away From Politics

own witnesses in the event of surprises.

 Training quality-of-life sights on New York dogs, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has announced plans to increase fines for harboring dogs found to be dangerous, to deny dogs any consideration for being provoked into barking or biting and to require owners of pit bulls to obtain \$100,000 in liability insurance. (NYT)

• Damage suits against the handgun la-dustry were filed by Miami and Dade County, Florida, and by Bridgeport, Connecticut. They joined a campaign to hold gun makers responsible for costs of crimes committed with guns.

• Zapping a laser pointer at motorists is now against the law in San Ramon, California. The new ordinance also limits minors' access to the pointers.

· Clemency was rejected for an inmate scheduled to be executed next week in McAlester, Oklahoma, for three slayings he committed as a 16-year-old.

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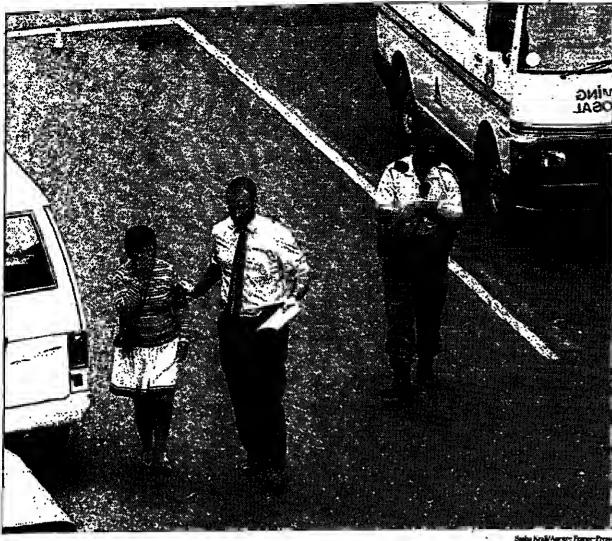
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INTERNATIONAL



Police officers in Cape Town escorting a passer-by shaken by a bomb explosion near the main police station.

Bomb in Central Cape Town Wounds 11

By Donald G. McNeil Jr. New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG - The third bomb in five months went off in-central Cape Towo on Thursday, wounding 11 people at the entrance to the city's main

police station. No one took responsibility for the explosion, which the police tentatively said involved a pipe bomb left in a garbage can. The police said they were questioning two people, whom they did not identify.

Four of the injured, none of them police officers, had serious burns or shrapnel wounds from the blast, which took place just after 1 P.M. outside the Caledon Square station.

Blue shreds of the garbage can littered the street next to a shattered green Volkswagen, and blood was spattered around the area, local news services reported.

Cape Town is in the grip of a three-way war involving the police, gangs of criminals and conservative Muslim vi-

Both the gangs, which are rich with drug money, and the vigilantes are based in the huge mixed-race Cape Flats neighborhoods outside the central city, near the airport.

The vigilantes, most prominently an imam-led group calling itself People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, are suspected of setting many bombs to kill drug dealers and police officers.

They are also suspected of the two major blasts in a tourist area, the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront.

The first exploded in a crowded Planet Hollywood restaurant on Aug. 25, killing two people and wounding 25. It was presumably a form of retaliation against the United States, which had just fired cruise missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan into suspected terrorist sites. as a response to that operation.

The second, on Jan. 2, blew up cars outside a theater that was to show "The Siege," an American film in which the villains are Muslim fundamentalist terrorists.

No one has been charged in the blasts, but the police said the two bombs and those used against drug dealers and police substations had design similarities.

The police have been trying hard to infiltrate the vigilante group, with little apparent success. Last year, a police captain who was heading one of the investigations was shot and killed in his car by several gunmen after be stopped to help a motorist.

Blaming the vigilantes for that killing, the police and government an-nounced Operation Good Hope, a joint police-army operation to restore law and order to the Cape Town area.

Local news commentators said the blast Thursday appeared to be intended

Pope Condemns Death Penalty

Citing Appeal, Missouri's Governor Commutes a Killer's Sentence

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Preaching consistency in moral values. Pope John Paul II urged American Catholics to extend the crusade to protect human life to include murderers on death row.

The oew evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life," the Pope preached to 100,000 people in the Trans World Sports Dome, a football stadium.

'Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform."

He called the death penalty "cruel and nanecessary," even in the case of a criminal who "has done great evil."

The Pope has often urged an end to the death penalty, but his speech Wednesday was the most explicit statement against capital punishment he has made in the United States.

[Governor Mel Camahan of Missouri on Thursday commuted the death sentence of a convicted murderer to life without parole, citing a personal plea by the Pope, The Associated Press report-

["I continue to support capital pun-ishment, but after careful consideration

of his direct and personal appeal and because of a deep and abiding respect for the pontiff and all he represents, I decided

last night to grant his request," he said. {Darrell Mease, convicted of murdering a drug partner and two others in southwestern Missouri in 1988, had been scheduled to die Wednesday. His execution was postponed in December by the Missouri Supreme Court, apparently because of the Pope's visit to St. Lonis, which ended Wednesday.]

At the Mass on Wednesday, some in the audience expressed deep reverence for the Pope but disagreement with his teachings on capital punishment.

"I am here because I really believe," said Araminta Rincon, a translator who had arrived at the site at 3 A.M. from Green Bay, Wisconsin. "I am a believing Catholic, and I love this Pope." But she, like others, said she also believed in the death penalty: "In some ways, it's very said. But there is no other way — some people are just very, very bad."

This 30-hour stop was the 78-year-old Pope's fifth pastoral visit to the United States, and once again, he found himself confronting one of the chief frustrations of his papacy: Many American Catholics display a stubborn independence from Vatican teaching.

The Pope, who stopped in St. Louis after an episcopal meeting in Mexico to instruct North Americans about their responsibility to the world in the new

The Ulste

millennium, also had to remind Carlolics to heed the basic tenets of the In his homily, the Pope mentioned some of the moral issues that divide

Americans and many Catholics else-"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted

suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love?" he asked. In visiting St. Louis, the Pope chose a metropolitan area that is close to 55 percent Catholic.

But his message was also aimed at the nation at large, and before leaving St. Louis on Wednesday night, he held an evening prayer service at the St. Louis Cathedral for about 2,000 people, including Vice President Al Gore and Representative Dick Gephardt, Demo-crat of Missouri, and their wives.

The Pope told his audience that as the only superpower, the United States was a model for the rest of the world. 'Radical change in world politics leaves America with a heightened re-

sponsibility to be for the world an example of a genuinely free, democratic, just and hamane society," he said. John Paul II, who was the first Pope to apologize openly for the failure of many Catholics to resist the Nazi policy of exterminating Jews during World War II, has tried to make ecumenism and reconciliation with the Jews a ballmark of his papacy. A rabbi, Robert, executive vice president of the St. Louis

rabbinical association, gave a biblical reading about a prophecy of the renewal of Zion at the vesper-service, giving the opening in Hebrew. The Pope has visited synagogues and prayed with rabbis at interfaith services, but this was the first time a rabbi had given a reading at a Catholic service officiated by the Pope.
After vespers, the Pope walked out of

the basilica and shook hands with Rosa Parks, the civil-rights | beroine of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott in 1955. Mrs. Parks, who will turn 86 in February, rose from her wheelchair to shake the Pope's hand.

The ailing Pope, whose veice is slurred as the result of Parkinson's disease, was at times difficult to understand. At the football stadium, giant screens included captioned text of his remarks. He seemed buoyed by the enthusiasm of his audiences, but outside, the fervor at times melted away. Though there were some areas where the crowds were six people deep, other sidewalks along his parade route were empty.

Israel Names Security Chief

Challengers Assail Netanyahu for Creating Council

TEL AVIV-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Thursday an-nounced the formation of a National Security Council headed by a former

Defense Ministry director, David "The national security adviser will chai had opposed the step, saying ex-increase and tighten coordination and isting security forums were adcooperation between government offices in national security issues," Mr.

Netanyahu said. of the air force, would help develop press conference. national security policy that integrates military, strategic, intelligence and economic affairs. He said the new

Mr. Netanyahu's move was at-tacked by his two main challengers in the May general election, Ehud Barak

Another goal will be to strengthen Israeli-U.S. cooperation in countering the development of missiles and nonand the former defense minister, conventional weapons in the region in Yitzhak Mordechai, as creating unnecessary bureauciacy.

"Where is the logic to setting up a year, he said.

National Security Council four months before the elections?" Mr. Mordechai, who was dismissed by Mr. Netanyahu last week for plotting a political challenge to the prime min-ister, told Israel Radio. As defense minister, Mr. Morde-

"The National Security Council is

a vital function for the security of the He said Mr. Ivry, 64, a former chief nation," Mr. Netanyahu said at a "The council will examine geo-

political, economic, technological and communications interests, all of council would report to the prime which are directly related to the seminister. which are directly related to the seminister. Another goal will be to strengthen

line with a strategic accord signed between the two countries late last (Reuters, AFP)

> rtoral Re proval in

Front Dismantles

ata's Army to Shift last Timor

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OUT

WORLD

EUROPE

Cruel Ulster Beatings Strain Peace Accord

Acts of Revenge Imperil Prisoner Releases

By T. R. Reid
Washington Post Service

LONDON — The springtime of peace that brought hope to Northern Ireland last year has deteriorated into a winter of brutal beatings and violent death, putting serioos strains on the peace process and tarnishing the greatest political achievement of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Mr. Blair hristled on the floor of Parliament on Wednesday as he struggled to respond to opposition leaders — and a few members of his own Labour Party - who said it was time for the government to crack down on the sectarian street armies believed to be responsible for a recent outbreak of what are called "punishment beatings,

As part of the Good Friday agreement last year, intended to cod three decades of cooflict in the British province, Prime Minister Blair's government has been granting early release to prisoners in Northern Ireland jails, including several members of Roman Catholic and Protestant paramilitary groups who had

been serving life terms for murder. For their part, the paramilitary groups are required by the agreement to honor a

cease-fire and a pledge of nonviolence. With some cruel exceptions, this trade-off has served to preserve a gen-eral state of peace among the 1.6 million residents of Northern Ireland.

But this winter, a wer, cold and generally dismal time of year in the province, has brought a series of attacks n which armed squads have assaulted individuals with guns, baseball bass or iron tools, often breaking bones. Some of the victims have hled to death. Others

have been crippled or blinded.
On Wednesday, the police found the battered corpse of Eamon Collins, a former member of the Irish Republican Army, the predominantly Catholic guerrilla group that advocates an end to British rule in Northern Ireland and union with the Irish Republic.

Mr. Collins broke with the IRA and wrote a bonk, "Killing Rage," detailing its violent practices.

The police had no immediate explanation for Mr. Collins's death, but the victim said many times that he had been targeted for retribution by the IRA.
This has prompted Mr. Blair's op-

ponents to say that his program of prisoner releases is a mistake and should be stopped. Traditionally, Britain's major political parties have buried their dif-



Mary Quinn, a resident of Dungannon, Northern Ireland, surveying a hole in her window caused Thursday by a hurled pipe bomb that did not explode. Authorities attributed the bomb to a wave of sectarian violence.

ferences on Northern Ireland. But the winter of violence sparked a long, tough and clearly partisan debate in the House of Commons. "Every time Blair releases another prisoner early, he throws away another negoniating card," said William Hague, leader of the op-

position Conservative Party.

Other Conservatives said that halting the release of prisooers would put pres-

sure on the paramilitary groups to stop the violence. Mr. Blair was clearly rattled by the accusation and angry that Northern Ire-land was being debated at all.

What I would ask some of the honorable members opposite, who are shouting 'Disgrace!' and 'Shame!' at me, is to . recognize the difficulty of this process." Mr. Blair retorted. "When they were in

government, we gave them support in difficult as well as easy times.

The prime minister noted that the oumber of punishment beatings this winter was no greater than in previous years. To stop the prisoner releases might destroy the overall agreement, he said and "bring this whole process to

But even within his own party, which normally shows impressive political discipline, Mr. Blair is facing opposition on the prisoner releases,

Another hurst of beatings or killings - particularly now, with the political world and the media watching closely could force the prime minister to make major changes in his approach to peace in Northern Ireland.

■ Ulster Official Accuses IRA

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's first minister, accused the Irish Republican Army oo Thursday of murdering Mr. Collins, saying it had again broken its cease-fire, Agence France-Presse reported from Belfast.

"I think it's fairly clear who murdered Mr. Collins," he said. "Presumably, the same people who burned his house and tried to run him over -

The Sinn Fein leader, Getry Adams, described Mr. Collins's murder as "regrettable," but he ooted that the dead "many enemies in many

There was condemnation from Dublin. along with a plea not to let the murder thwart the peace accord.

BRIEFLY

Schroeder Admits Slips in '100 Days'

BONN - Faced with accusations of a chaotic governing style. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder acknowledged Thursday that he had set too hasty a pace in his first 100 days in office.

Mr. Schroeder's remarks, made during an interview, fullowed his center-left government's reversal this week on a time table for abandoning nuclear power as well as earlier slips on issues of tax reform and social policy.

"We set a high tempo — sometimes ton high a tempo - at the start in areas that were especially important to the coalition partners," Mr. Schroeder was quoted

as telling Der Tagesspiegel.
A liberal weekly. Die Zeit, scathingly summed up Mr. Schroeder's record under a headline, "One hundred weak days."

Spain and Britaiu **In Fishing Quarrel**

MADRID - Tensions between Spain and Britain mounted on Thursday in a fishing dispute off Gibraltar as diplomats scramhled to find a compromise and fishermen threatened in block the border to the British colony.

The Spanish government gave London a 72-linur ultimatum, which expires Saturday, to publicly affimi a verbal agreement made last October between the two nations on fishing rights or it would take unspecified action.

The latest tension comes after British and Gihraltar police seized a Spanish fishing boat Wednesday for illegally fishing with nets tit Gihraltar waters.

Islam in Politics Worrying Ankara

ANKARA - Seeking tn stnp political parties from using religion in the campaign for April 18 elections, military leaders of Turkey cooferred Thursday with governmeot officials.

The military and the secular establishment worry that the Islamic Virtue Party, the largest party, will emerge a winner.

In Europe's Arctic Zone, the Freeze of the Century through the weekend, was brought on by

OSLO - The northern fringe of Europe suffered its coldest weather of the century Thursday, and some Arctic regions of Russia have been gripped by a deep freeze as well.

In the Arctic stretches of Finland, Norway and Sweden, temperatures dipped ooder minus 51 cenngrade (minus 60 Fahrenheit) Thursday. That is too cold for mercury ther-

mometers, which freeze at minus 39 centigrade (minus 38 Fahrenheit) and requires the use of alcohol-based thermometers. At those temperatures, warm water tossed into the air outdoors will freeze

before it hits the ground, as a Norwegian

television station demoostrated for its report on the cold weather. Northern Finland set a new national record for the second day in a row when

tigrade (minus 60.7 Fahrenheit) during the night in the town of Pokka. It was slightly warmer in the Norwegian towo of Karasjok, with an overnight low of minus 51.2 cenngrade (minus 60.2 Fahrenheit), just shy of Norway's re-cord cold of minus 51.4 centigrade (minos 60.5 Fahrenheit) set in January

"This is a record for the ceotury," said Sigrid Naess, who monitors the official temperature in Karasjok, a town in Finnmark Province, Norway. "You just have to dress warm and huild a fire n the fireplace." Electric power failed in toany towns

in Archic provinces, leaving people shivering inside their homes, although virtually all homes also have fireplaces or other forms of heating.

Alfred Jacobsen, 86, measured freezing temperatures indoors because his the temperature fell to minus 51.5 cenhouse in Mehamn, Norway, was with-

out power. "It was full winter inside," he was quoted as telling the Oslo newspaper Verdeos Gang. In Finnish Lapland, ahout 5,000

people lost their electricity because power lines could not withstand the The metal power lines simply stretched and snapped under the pressure" from the cold, said Arto Miettinen, of the regional power company:
Compared to Norway and Finland,

the night's low for northern Sweden was a relatively balmy minus 48.7 C (minus-55.7 Fahrenheit) in the town of Valkeakoski. That was still cold enough to stop

passenger trains in northern Swedeo. since the air brakes used to stop them do not work at such low temperatures. Because air contracts in the cold, at extremely low temperatures there is not enough pressure to push the brakes,

The cold snap, which may last

of Russia. News reports said temperatures as low as minus 55.6 centigrade (minus 68 Fahrenheit) were recurded in Siheria this week. The Russian Weather Service said the

deep chill was unusually long. "It's one thing to cope for a day when it's minus 50 outside, but it's a different thing altogether to spend several days in a row like that," a meteorologist said.

cold air coming from Siberian regions

In some parts of the Kola Peninsula near Russia's border with Norway, the temperature fell at night to almost minus 56 centigrade (minus 69 Fahrenheit) in one village this week - the lowest in more than 100 years.

The meteorologist said a cyclone was bringing warmer weather and that temperatures would rise slightly Thursday and Friday as the cold front headed toward Western Europe. (AP. Reuters)

ASIA/PACIFIC

Electoral Reforms Win Approval in Indonesia

Parliament Dismantles Old Political System

The Associated Press JAKARTA - The Parliament ap-

proved political reforms Thursday for what is expected to be the most open election in Indonesia in four decades. After weeks of negotiations and last

minute deal-making, the legislature unanimously passed three bills that will largely dismantle the tightly controlled political system that had backed former President Suharto's authoritarian rule

"Agreed," shouted lawmakers after Lieuteoant General Hari Subarno, deputy speaker of Parliament and head of its armed forces faction, asked them if they approved the bills. Many stood and

Jakarta's Army **Yields to Shift** On East Timor

JAKARTA — The military is ready to comply with the "will of the people" if they want East Timor to be separated from Indonesia, the armed forces chief, General Wiranto, said Thursday.

His comments followed an acknowl-

edgment hy the government Wednesday that it was prepared to grant East

Timor independence.
The military would accept the people's wishes despite what he termed great sacrifices made and losses of life incurred by the Indonesian government and the military, General Wiranto said at the presidential palace.

"If it is decided that East Timor is no longer part of Indonesia, of course we will comply with it," he said.

Private estimates have said the Indonesian armed forces lost about 20,000 men in the battle to take East Timor, which was invaded in 1975 after the colonial power, Portugal, left. Some influential military officers now say no further effort should be made to hang on

to the territory. General Wiranto defeoded Indonesia's annexation of the territory, saying it had been for the sake of the local

- people.

The East Timor iotegranon was not a political mistake. he said. It was not a wrong decision but one that was not a wrong decision it was taken. It was very right at the time it was taken. It was intended to save the East Timorese from greater bloodshed after Portugal unio, langues.

"We want to restate the govern-ment's promise to organize a fair and open election at whatever cost because this is the only way to create a credible government," said Lieutenant General Syarwan Hamid, who is the home affairs minister.

B.J. Habibie, who replaced President Suharto after riots and protests last May, has scheduled parliamentary elections

He says the ballot, expected to be the freest since 1955, will be democratic. Critics, however, say the changes, which reduce but do not abolish a political role for the powerful military, do

oot go far enough.

During Mr. Suharto's rule, the Parliament had been largely a rubber stamp institution stacked with his supporters and friends.

Under the new laws, elections, which

had been limited by Mr. Suharto to only three heavily regulated parties, will be opened up to a wide range of groups as long as they do not promote racial or religious problems and conform to a list of other broad requirements. More than 4 million state employees,

whom Mr. Suharto forced to vote for his ruling Golkar Party, will be banned from membership in political parties. Mr. Hahibie has said that political neutrality is essential in the state hureau-

The military, which oow holds 75 nonelected seats in the Parliament, will have its representation reduced to 38. Ooce elected, the Parliament along

with 200 government appointees will form a People's Consultative As-

As the nation's highest legislative body, the assembly will vote for a president this year.

The role of the military in politics is increasingly controversial. Opposition figures not in Parliament had wanted to reduce the number of appointed military seats to 15 with the aim of eventually banishing the armed forces from the legislature.

Many Iodonesians resent the military, which is trying to revamp its tarnished image as a human rights violator and is struggling to contain a wave of riots and protests that has hit Indonesia in the past year.

The nation's military chief, General Wiranto, has pledged that the armed forces would remain neutral during the election. Under Indonesian law, members of the military are prohibited from voting in elections.

In Yogyakarta on Thursday, about greater moodshed and retritory."

Interally abandoned the territory. 100 students demonstrated against the military's role in politics and burned an effigy clad in military fangues.



Pakistan's captain, Wasim Akram, left, and India's Mohammad Azharuddin, shaking hands after the toss on the cricket pitch Thursday. cricketers at least twice in the last de-

Now, Cricket Diplomacy India and Pakistan in First Series in Years

MADRAS, India - Mounted police and paramilitary troopers stood guard on Thursday as India and Pakistan

began their first test cricket series oo Indian soil in more than a decade. The match has been overshadowed by threats from Hindu extremists, hut the mood eased last week after the Shiv

Sena Party withdrew its vow to disrupt the tour. And on Thursday, the rivalry was good-natured as fans lined up to get past metal detectors for the inaugural three-

day match at Chidambaram Stadium. Pakistan had 238 runs, and India then went to hat. The match will resume

More than 3,000 policemen and 600 reservists were deployed around the stadium and inside the 14 stands, said a senior police official who asked not to be ideotified. "We expect absolutely no trouble," he added.

The government of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where Madras is situated, declared Thursday a public holiday.

At least 25,000 nickets were sold for the first test match, stadium authorities

The sites of the two-test series were changed after Shiv Sena acrivists dug up the Delhi cricket pitch, forcing the first test to move to Madras.

Shiv Sena has blocked Pakistani

countries should not be playing cricket while Indian soldiers die in clashes at the border with Pakistan, But authorities in the two countries.

cade with threats, saying that the two

helieving that sporting links can improve relations, came together to put pressure on Shiv Sena last week to withdraw its threat.

Pakistan won one test and the four other tests were drawn in 1987 during an Indian tour. India and Pakistan last played each other in test matches in 1989 and 1990 in Pakistan, when all four tesis were drawn.

That last tour coincided with the start of a rebellion against Indian rule in Kashmir, the Himalayan valley over which the two countries have fought two wars since 1947, the year when they won independence from Britain, the home of cricket.

In the latest clashes, India said Wednesday that five Pakistani soldiers had been killed in a border clash at the Siachen glacier in the disputed region. Conflict aside, cricket is played and

followed with passion on hath sides of the border. "The pressure is totally different," the Times of India quoted the Pakistani captain, Wasim Akram, as having said about playing India. "It's more than a came

here. When you win, you are up there. When you lose, you are down there. "So when we go back, that's the way we are treated."

BRIEFLY

No Hostages in Philippines

MANILA — President Joseph Estrada said Thursday that the situation in the southern Mindanao region was under control and that reports that Muslim rebels had taken schoolchildren and teachers

hostage were false.
"There are soldiers in the school," Mr. Estrada said in Manila after local radio stations reported that scores of students and teachers had been taken hostage in the school near Cotabato City on Mindanao. about 900 kilometers (560 miles) south of Manila. He said the students had taken refuge in the building after an exchange of fire between soldiers and the

There were conflicting reports that troops and rebels were still facing off in the area although the fighting appeared to have died down, military

The clash came despite a new cease-fire agreed to by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Force, the main group fighting for an independem Muslim homeland in the south.

India Sets Slaying Inquiry NEW DELHI - India's cabinet decided Thurs- representative of the Chinese people."

There were no reports of casualties.

day to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the weekend murder of an Australian Christian missionary and his two sons, officials said.

Defense Minister George Femandes said the decision was made after he and two other ministers visited the eastern state of Orissa, where the missionary, Graham Staines, and his two sons were burned to death on Saturday as they slept in their

The investigating commission will be headed by a sitting supreme court judge.

Mr. Staines had spent years in remote areas help-

ing lepers and the poor.

Taipei Affirms Skopje Tie

TAIPEI - Tajwan insisted on Thursday that new diplomatic ties with Macedonia were firm despite confusion in the Balkan country over whether its government recognized Taipei or Beijing.

Taiwan's foreign minister, Jason Hu, and his

but Macedonia's president, Kiro Gligorov, later called the deal "a surprise." Mr. Gligorov met Wednesday with China's ambassador in the capital, Skopje, and said that Macedonia still recognized Beijing as "the only legitimate

Macedonian counterpart, Alexander Dimitrov, signed a pact on relations in Taipei on Wednesday,

Seoul Students Want U.S. Out

SEOUL — Huodreds of militant students, shouting for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, staged violent protests in Seout and three other cities Thursday, the police and news reports

Several students were reported injured but none of

them seriously.

Protests in Seoul turned violent when 600 students, throwing rocks, clashed with the police. They burned a U.S. flag and an effigy of President Bill Clinton. One student was slightly injured in the

For the Record

Two North Korean defectors arrived in Seoul separately on Thursday to seek political asylum. South Korea's intelligence ageocy and state radio said, bringing the nomber of such defectors this month to 17.

Seeking to halt a flu outhreak that has claimed a reported 25 lives this month, Japan's Ministry of Health and Welfare is warning nursing homes to begin vaccinating residents against the virus, a ministry official Thursday.

Horror in Sierra Leone

Less than a year ago, Bill Clinton was in Africa vowing "Never agaio." The "international community" had failed in Rwanda, be admitted. It had not intervened to stop a bloodletting of unimaginable savagery. But it had learned a lesson. President Clinton promised "to increase our vigilance and strengthen our stand against those who would commit such atrocities in the future." He said that "each bloodletting hastens the next — as the value of human life is degraded and violence becomes tolerated, the unimaginable becomes more conceivable." Now, in Sierra Leone, the unimaginable is again taking place, and the United States again is doing less than it could.

We do not know the scope of killing and maiming going on, because most diplomats have been evacuated and most contact has been cut off. But enough courageous relief workers and journalists remain to give some sense of the horror. We know that a rebel force is systematically chopping off the hands of men, women, boys and girls whom it captures. We know that tens of thousands have been killed, hundreds of thousands displaced. We know that in one soccer stadium alone in the capital of Freetown some 50,000 have taken refuge, short of food, vulnerable to disease.

The rationalizations for inaction are predictable. This is not a Rwanda-style genocide, after all, in which a million or more were killed in the space of

cinus, nonideological group of thugs
- hard to negotiate with. The United States bas provided bumanitarian aid. And America cannot solve every problem in the world.

All true — yet not very convincing. Between sending the U.S. Marioes and doing nothing there are many intermediate perches that the United States could occupy. So far, with respect to Sierra Leone, it remains too close to the doing-oothing end of the spectrum.

Here is one example. The only thing that stands between Sierra Leone's civilians and the savage rebel force is an alliance of West African troops led by Nigeria. Since its ill-fated intervention in Somalia, the United States has encouraged precisely this kind of solu-on, Africans helping Africans. Yet this is not an easy mission for the Nigerians, with economic troubles of their own and a continuing democratization process that will lead to pressures to withdraw troops from foreign

They cannot possibly do the job without sustained financial, logisocal and political support from the United States. And bow much has the United

States budgeted to support the force this year? A laughable \$1.3 million.
"We cannot change the past," Mr. Clinton eloquently said in Rwanda. We can move more quickly to minimize the horror. - THE WASHINGTON POST

Jordan's Next King

week after returning home, King Hussein of Jordan unexpectedly flew back to the Mayo Clinic for treatment of a recurrence of cancer. Just before departing he overturned long-established succession plans and named his eldest son. Prince Abdullah, as crown prince and heir to the throne. The change relegated Prince Hassan, the king's younger brother and long-standing heir apparent, to a lesser role and exposed a bitter family quarrel that could resurface after the king's death.

King Hussein, senior statesman of the Arab world and Jordan's ruler since 1952, has played an exceptional role in reducing Middle East tensions. Future stability and peace in the region will rest in no small measure on a smooth succession and on whether Crown Prince Abdullah demonstrates the same commitment to reconciliation as his father.

Through secret contacts with Israeli leaders in the early 1970s, King Hussein opened the first diplomatic communications between Israel and the Arab world. By renouncing Jordan's claims to the West Bank in the 1980s, he helped make possible the Oslo peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. In 1994, Jordan became the second Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Since then the king has intervened at critical moments, most recently by leaving his sickbed last October to help President Bill Clinton rescue stalemated summit talks between Ben-

It was a moment of potentially great jamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat consequence in the Middle East, A Ruling Jordan would challenge any Ruling Jordan would challenge any leader. The country was artificially created by the British Empire, lacks natural resources and is divided between a native Bedouin minority and a resiless Palestinian majority. In recent years its economy has been burt by sanctions against Iraq, formerly its

leading trading partner. The king's

personal strengths have held the

country together. Prince Hassan is an aloof intellectual who inspired little affection among ordinary Jordanians or politically important army officers. He unwisely distanced himself from Jordanians of Palestinian origin while King Hussein preached conciliation. He infuriated the king by acting as though the throoe were already his and maneuvering to insert his own son into the line of succession. This prompted a sharp royal letter of rebuke made public this week.

Crowo Prince Abdullah is popular in the army, where he has spent his career, and bas traveled internationally on his father's behalf. He is 36, has a Palestinian wife, but is notested in a political world in which any stumble could fracture Jordan's internal stability

If Israel and the Palestinians can complete the peace they have begun, the violent conflicts that have shaped the region for so long may subside. While be has the strength, King Hussein can help lead his neighbors to that goal. Then it will be Prince Abdullah's goal. 1166. A. responsibility. .

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Cure for 'Hyperdemocracy'

At all levels of government, the political culture of hyperdemocracy encourages citizens to behave like spoiled children, demanding that gov-emment "meet my needs," and alternating between sullen withdrawal

and boisterous whining.

And like angry children who nonetheless never doubt that their mother will always be there to ultimately set things right, Americans, at the same time that they exhibit an almost pathological cynicism about the political processes by which they govern themselves, generally express immense, not to say blind faith in their nation's future and in its standing as a democratic model for the world.

In short, they naively trust in the ultimate unimportance of their distrust
— that when things get bad enough, the system somehow will automaccally right itself, presumably through the ef-forts of other people, who do not share their cynicism. But the ills of byperdemocracy are not self-limiting or selfcorrecting. Things can keep going from bad to worse. And, as concerns the quality of the public discussion that is so basic to democracy, things have been

getting worse for some time now. To tame hyperdemocracy, we must drastically reduce the influence of public opinion at its shallowest, and the way to do that is to pay a lot more attention to public opinion at its most thoughtful.

- From "Hyperdemocracy," by the political scientist Hugh Heclo. in the Winter 1999 issue of the Wilson Quarterly.

Independence for Timor

The announcement by Indonesia's foreign minister that his government is preparing to offer independence to East Timor, the territory Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed in 1976, comes as a welcome sign that the long nightmare of the Timorese people may be about to end.

Indonesia's occupation of East Timor has taken a terrible toll. Human rights groups estimate that 200,000 people were killed — more than a quarter of the indigenous population.

If Indonesia is sincere in its new willingness to allow the Timorese to choose independence, their change of heart reflects a timely appreciation of diplomatic and economic realities.

- The Boston Globe.

Herald Tribune

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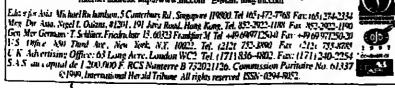
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Watch Out, Everyone, Russia Is Still on the Brink

PARIS — Winston Chruchill's de-scription of Russia as a "riddle wrapped in a mystery in an enigma* was a reference to the total obsessive secrecy of Stalin's regime. That bas all gone. The country has been opened. including whole cities that were hidden and lots of archives. Travel to and from it is no problem. But today's Russia remains a dilemma.

It is a crucial uncertainty, perhaps the most important in determining bow world affairs are going to evolve in coming years. No one informed pretends to see clearly how Russia will be governed nor the role it will play, but the role is sure to be significant.

The countries of Eastern Europe are moving now more or less smoothly. more or less successfully, through their transition from Communist authoritarian rule to market-based liberal democracies. It has been harder than anticipated, by no means the simple explosion of liberated energy that dissidents once dreamed about. But the direction is clear and the goal well enough defined: to be a comfortable, secure member of Europe and the

Nothing is that clear in Russia. Start with Boris Yeltsin's bealth, an impending disaster for years now, but be is still By Flora Lewis

there. "He is one of those Russians the status of a global power wherever possible, and getting on with but also opposing the United States.

The consensus of experts is that Russians the status of a global power wherever possible, and getting on with but also opposing the United States.

The consensus of experts is that Russians the status of a global power wherever possible, and getting on with but also opposing the United States. sian writer said of him.

Yevgeni Primakov, former KGB chief and foreign minister, is in charge as a kind of caretaker prime minister, but he dare not appear too eager to succeed to the presidency or he risks being dumped as his predecessors were. The economy is awful. Top officials

keep announcing that the decline has bottomed out, that growth has begun at last, and the figures still go down. Mus-covites joke: "We learned that every-thing they told us about communism was a lie. Now we learn that everything they said about capitalism is true." An elaborate but shadowy game is

going on to prepare for a presidential election, but lines of allegiance are crossed and unreliable. Districts and provinces strike out with their own programs in the absence of effective central support. The federal government seems to teeter between insolvency, for lack of revenue collection, and the remptation of byperinflation to produce is a frightening thought because of the enough worthless rubles to go around. sequel, but it is not at all inevitable.

By Daniel Tarschys

sia could still go any way - democranic or dictatorial, with a fascist rather than Communist coloration; a cooperarive peacemaker in helping deal with turbulent parts of the world (Bosnia and Kosovo, maybe even Iraq), or a rengeful expansionist seeking to live by arms; a source of great new cultural flowering or of terrible brutality.

The historical comparison is Wei-

mar, the reference to the ill-fated post-World War I German republic whose constitution was written in the picturesque city of Goethe and Schiller. The vindictive Versailles treaty, the worldwide spread of economic collapse for lack of sound political management, the fear of communism among conniving barons of capitalism are customarily given as reasons for Weimar's failure and the rise of Hitler. But it was in any case a frail structure, given to illusion and discainful of hostile intrigues.

Russia could become Weimar. This

Foreign policy focuses on regaining influence in the "near abroad," among former Soviet republics, maintaining the status of the resources, the will exist to enable Russia to develop into a stable, healthy de-mocracy. But neither is that inevitable,

Remembering how important such contacts were in the transformation of post-World War II Germany, Mr. Billington calls for the immediate dispatch of several thousand young Russians to the United States for some firsthand experience in how to administer a democracy. Others could be sent to Western Europe. He feels that such a program is urgent, that it could have early and widespread effect as people throughout the provinces are obliged to grapple with making their society work.

Russia is not a defeated country, and it is not an occupied country. The German parallel must be recognized as very limited. But the people are suffering and bewildered. The leaders who have emerged so far have been unable to organize, inspire, produce. Nobody can do it for them, but they need help from what their own bright youth can learn out in the world. No doubt that is not enough, but Russia's future will affect all of us so much that nothing useful and feasible should be left undone.

The Euro in the West Is Fine, but Europe Is More Than 'Euroland'

STRASBOURG — It has been a flying start for sented on bills and price tags European bome. but not yet figuring as coins or

For the next two years, think and count in their oew currency before they are achands and let it slip through their fingers. Its mental presence will be ever more dense until it ultimately solidifies into physical presence.

Thought before acdoo -European unification. Unique scale of the mental dry swim, hundreds of millions of people in simultaneous practice.

The euro is a magnificent achievement. But "thinking Europe" must oot be confined to economic matters or to the 11 states of Euroland.

Europe's new currency. The battlefield of bostile armies, an ers about the need for legal, euro is invisible yet omni-present, nowhere and every-neighbors, into a decent and cultural perspectives in the where, already widely repre- civilized place, a common

The Council of Europe. deeply engaged in "thinking Europe" for half a century, bas 'Eurolanders' will learn to always insisted on the wider values and the wide borizons of and deeper dimensions of our cooperation. Emphasizing bumully allowed to hold it in their man rights, democracy and the rule of law, it has focused on the ethical, moral, spiritual, cultural and social aspects of European unification.

These objectives are important in themselves, but in the Muscovy as crucial for Eurothat is the normal process of long run they are also decisive for material well-being. The in this case, bowever, is the market economy functions well only if it is embedded in a decent society, in a civic and civilized community, in a culture of trust and common un-

> That is wby narrow perspectives are so dangerous even from an economic point of view. Re-

transition process.

In the concert of European organizations, the Council of Europe has a particular responsibility to defend the common the European project. Narrow geographical per-

specoves must be avoided. When William Penn proposed the creation of a European Assembly in 1693, he insisted oo But will we seize it? the inclusion of the Ottoman Empire and the Principality of pean security. Security remains one of several reasons why the peoples in the eastern part of the Continent have an important role to play in European

In the 1990s, the countries freed from Communist oppresand prosperous democracies. Sixteeo of them bave now The European project is cent developments in Eastern joined the Council of Europe. grams of the European Union. contributed this comment to the much greater: turning an old Europe serve as painful remind- Many of these countries have a ... To avoid exclusion, we must International Herald Tribune.

long way to go to make up for intensify wider European co-the waste and mismanagement operation for the consolidation of their past. This requires joint efforts and mulodimensional

former Portuguese President need for a strong Council of Currain, we have now a unique chance to pursue this objective.

quite real and may be aggravated if the process of EU enwider European context intoaccount. This calls for particular attention to the bodies involved in a more broadly inclusive cooperation, not only the Council of Europe but also the Organization for Security sion have set out to build stable and Cooperation in Europe, the Economic Commissino for Europe and some external pro-

of democracy and the protection of human rights, including the combat against racism and Recently, 10 "wise perintolerance and the pr
sons" under the leadership of of national minorities. intolerance and the protection Common approaches and

Mario Soares reaffirmed the common legal standards are needed in many fields, not least Europe. Their report was aprly called "Building a Greater Europe Without Dividing Lines." After the fall of the Iron in those related to the fight against organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption.

In 1997, the Strusbourg sum-

mit of the Council of Europe adopted an ambinous agenda in this spirit. Although some first The risks of new barriers are steps have been taken to carry it out, the real will to seize the new opportunities for wider largement fails to take the European cooperation remains insufficient.

This won't do. The launching of the common currency is worth all the celebration it has attracted, but it must not limit our horizons. Europe is more than Euroland.

The writer, secretory-general of the Council of Europe.

Asian Countries Need a New Mind-Set to End the Crisis

SINGAPORE - How did we get into the economic crisis in Asia that bas destroyed the jobs and bopes of millions? The simple, perhaps facile ex-planation is that bubris brought

the region down. Arrogant pride meant that we started to believe our own propaganda. Where the Asian Miracle was once just a journalist's catchy phrase, it soon became an excuse for all kinds of excesses, including the worst sin, KKN.

The Indonesian initials for corruption, cronyism and nepotism, KKN represents the darker side of the so-called Asian values that created the boom years. It was the bollow rot at the core of a false economic boom.

We now know that KKN was a cancer eating at the heart of several Asian societies; but while everyone was benefiting from it, no one wanted to rock the boat. Corruption was given a respectable euphemism — participate actively in political

By Ho Kwon Ping. guon xi, the Chinese word for life, not necessarily by becom-

"connections" - and every- ing politicians but by demanding one went back to playing the game. The recession can be an opportunity for us to clean house and start afresh. But there are several mind-set

changes that all new-generacon businessmeo must make. First, they must participate in political life. The past year has proved that the saying about polices being too important to leave to policians is all too true. Inept. self-interested and corrupt poliocians destroyed the lives of millions of people. For young business leaders in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and elsewhere, enlightened self-interest must mean involvement in

poliocal change. Where previously business leaders' only involvement in poliocs was lobbying for their own projects, they should now

good governance from leaders. Those businessmen who did not benefit from cronyism, and they are the overwhelming majority, should demand an end to KKN.

Asia's rising generation should push for new mind-sets about the relationship between business and governance, new standards of conduct, and new visions of social, economic and political development. Such visions cannot be imposed from outside, like the failed austerity measures from the International Monetary Fund. They can only succeed if Asian businessmen, trade unionists, students and teachers all demand it.

Second, good governance must be defined, with standards set, and made into the new Asian political philosophy. The up-and-coming Asian generation cannot just demand vaguely

idealistic economic reforms, shrouded in slogans like "reformasi," which student and opposition activists chant in the streets of Indonesia and Malaysia. Neither can it just copy the formal trappings of Westernstyle democracy, whether they are appropriate or not in a particular setting. We must go beyoud the form and into the

substance of good governance. Singapore, in its preoccupation, some would say its near obsession, with self-analysis, self-improvement and social engineering, may be an ex-ample for Asia — not an ex-ample to follow, but one from which to extract lessons. While its system of governance is not without detractors, virtually everyone, including its foreign critics, agrees that Singapore's way of governance has enabled it to emerge relatively un-

scathed from this crisis. The Singapore way is not a universal model for others to follow, because it is the result of pragmatic adaptation and continual improvements to its own historical context. But the lesson for others is in the objective: a relatively transparent, accountable government where the social contract between the leadership and people is genu-inely strong, and social cohe-sion has increased rather than been weakened by the crisis. Asia's intellectuals, students. Tribune from a recent speech to the ASEAN Tourism Forum. and business and cultural lead-

ers should decide that good governance, which includes concepts like accountability, transparency and incorruptibility, must be turned into meas. urable standards.

For Asia's rising generation, the passing of the baton of leadership is a curse as much as a challenge. The curse is that we may not learn from history and will be doomed to repeat the same mistakes that today we claim we will never make again. The challenge is to build new structures of governance. civil society and, indeed, Asian values, which will be lasting in

their basic principles. We must carefully pick our own independent path through the debris, dusting off and restoring those truths that guided our progress in the past, while discarding those remnants of a hypocritical tradition which contributed to our downfall.

Asia must resurrect itself. But on its own terms and from its own foundations, not from the sometimes facile observa-tions and criticisms of foreign critics or self-flagellating Asian intellectuals. We must be unrelentingly self-critical - yet not lose our self-confidence.

The writer heads several Singopore-hased companies. This comment was adopted by the Internonional Herald

IN OUR PACES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO 1899: Liberal Duchy BERLIN - The Duchy of

Brunswick publishes a communiqué from the Government repudiating insinuacons on the subject of the annexation, pure and simple, of the duchy by Prussia. Something serious must be going oo behind the scenes to make the government of Brunswick thus publicly de-fend the independence of the ducby.

1924: Trust Bust

WASHINGTON - The Federal Trade Commission has received complaints of a monopoly in radio apparatus making and broadcasting, in restraint of trade, against the Radio Corporation of America, the General Electric Company, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Westing-

tional Radio, the United Fruit and Wireless Specialties concerns. The complaint alleges that the patents of these organizations have been pooled to restrict trading and charges that they have acquired all transoceanic communications and have refused all other devices for such services.

LONDON — Foreign Ministers of the five Weslern European Union powers, who form the consultative council of the five-power Brussels treaty, announced agreement on proposals for establishing a ministerial legislative powers. Other European countries, which were not specified, will be invited to participate in the negotiations for

WASHINGTON — In 1994 in Rwanda, nearly By Nat Hentoff genocide was taking place in Rwanda and yet be seen to do nothing about it." A year be-"Frontline" on Tuesday, This

We Could Have Saved Rwandans

a million Tutsi were mas sacred by Hum in about 100 days. The horror of this holocaust, and the ways in which it could have been prevented by the United Nations and the administration, have been realized only in fragments. Last year came a power-

fully detailed book by Philip Gourevitch, "We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Farnilies." He disclosed the role of Madeleine Albright, who was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations during that tornado of killings: "Ducking and pres-suring others to duck, as the death toll leapt from thousands to tens of thousands, was the absolute low point in her career as a stateswoman."

Also not substantively reported at the time was the complicity of UN leaders in these killings. UN officials knew mooths before the April 1994 genocide of plans for those ethnic massacres, but no meaningful preventive action was taken.
A vivid and revealing re-

particular program started with the BBC, but 'Front-line' added new material focusing on the American re-fusal to intervene. On camera, Mr. Gourevitch

tion's approach "throughout the entire period" was not a failure to intervene but the "success of a policy not to intervene." James Woods, deputy assistant secretary at the Defense Department from 1986

to 1994, added that be was asked, in 1993, to list possible serious crises that the admin-. istracion might face. He placed Rwanda on that list, but higher authorities told him to take it off because American interests were not involved. At the end of April 1994, a State Department secret intel-

'Frontline' that a Clinton adcould have been prevented, or gressional elections the nity for physical protection at least cut short, was seen in Democrats could lose votes if stand defenseless." America in the PBS series Bill Clinton admitted that

fore, 18 American soldiers had been killed in Somalia.

Mr. Marley at one point recommended that American military radio equipment could at least be used to jam Rwandan radio transmissions said the Clinton administraurging that all Tutsi be killed, but a lawyer from the Pentagon insisted that such a move would violate the First

Amendment. At the United Nations, Kofi Annan, then in charge of peacekeeping missions, was told before the killings started that UN forces would be able to seize weapons, but he refused.

The country was overflow-ing with corpses, but UN Am-bassador Albright postponed a Security Council vote on the In March 1998, in the

Rwandan capital of Kigali, President Clinton apologized ligence report called the for not having "fully appre-killings genocide. But Tony ciated ... this unimaginable Marley, then a consultant at terror." But essentially, Mr. the State Department, said on Gourevitch concludes, the lesson of Rwanda is that "enministracion official cau- dangered people who depend port on bow this genocide noned that in the coming con- on the international commu-

FARLY MORNING For more information

Alberta l'expression

MENTINOM AB INC.

1949: New Council

Council of Europe and a con-sultative body, which would serve as a Parliament without bonse Company, the Western Electric Company, the Interna-MODLE EAST AND SERVICE SERVICE

on the Brink

re Hiren Luroland

OPINION/LETTERS

Europe Is No Slacker In the Art of Scandal

By William Safire

ONDON - Americans are afflicted with the notion that we should be emharrassed by the Clinton im-Lachment follies,

We think that sophisticated Europe is going tut-tut at our seeming constitutional instability and tsk-tsk at our obsession with what Dale Bumpers brushed off as a mere "sex scandat,"

Cut the blushing. Eurocorruption is busting out all over. Never have so many taken so much so blatantly.

Here in Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair's emin-ence grise, a smooth manipulator of public opinion named Peter Mandelson, was found to have secretly taken a half-million-dollar loan, before the election, from a member of Parliament who then became a cabinet minister and came under inves-Thigation by Mr. Mandelson's

department. This illicit arrangement, giving new meaning to what is known bere as "the third way, caused much red-faced New Labour harrumphing and spun the spin-meister out of his job.

In Brussels, a score of the faceless commissioners of the European Union were nearly sacked when an anti- The judge who east the swing fraud squad of the European Parliament found cronyism and evidence of rigged bids

manitarian funds. Stickyfingered bureaucrats who believed that humanitarianism began at home may soon face a new force: an independent counsel

And bow about that money-grubbing International Olympic Committee? A new gold medal for kickbacks has been struck at IOC headquarters in Lausanne. Competition in the 500-meter shakedown was discovered in Salt Lake City and spread to Sydney, and to Nagano, Japan, where records of the corrupt bidding were consigned to the flames.

Ringleader of the five

Olympic rings is Juan Antonio Samaranch, who built the Olympics into a billion-dollar business. As investigators in sucker cities close in on the center of extortion, this grumpy geezer maintains he was merely blind to the high living of his agents.

Urgently needed is a highintegrity replacement unbebolden to the old regime, such as Sir Roger Bannister, the eminent neurologist, who in his youth was first to break the four-minute mile.

Even when they're not venal, Europe's honchos of bubris are making history. vote to turn over General Augusto Pinochet to Spanish prosecutors turns out to have and embezzlement rampant had a whopping conflict of in the management of bu- interest: Lord Hoffmann



failed to reveal his longtime association with Amnesty International, an active party in

For the first time in the long history of the Law Lords, a decision was scrapped and a new panel appointed. This has flipped

more than a few wigs.

However, sexually enlightened France's entry in the 'Kickback Olympics puzzles Americans.

The head of France's independent Constitutional Council is roughly equivalent to the chief justice of the United States. Roland Dumas, 76, a former foreign minister and a man of great dignity, is the subject of a book by a former friend, the just been concluded and lobbyist Christine Deviers- France is holding its breath;

Joncour, entitled Whore of the Republic." Mrs. Deviers-Joncour told

vestigators she was paid \$11 million by the French oil giant Elf Aquitaine to use ber connection with Mr. Dumas, then foreign minister, to drop his opposition to a sale of six

warships to Taiwan.

The sale, worth \$2.7 billinn, went through. Mr. Dumas says he has a clear conscience and "will continue in all serenity" to preside over French justice.

He is less serene about the pictures in bathing suits with Mrs. Deviers-Joncour on a beach near the oil fields, published by the gossipy Paris Match. The investigation has Will its top judge be indicted? Will the "putain" be discredited or believed? A trustworthy European source tells me: 'All Paris is agog.'

We Americans have long

ago given up agogging when it comes to affairs of the heart by powerful politicians. We smile tolerantly; we

shrug expressively; we lift a sophisticated eyebrow to show we are not prigs or moralizers or bypocrites. This is the way of the world, is it not

Clintonized Americans regard with world-weary dis-dain those French prudes snooping on each other in a "nouvelle vague" of sexual McCartbyism. When will Europe grow up?

The New York Times.

'No Man Is an Island, Entire of Itself,' Except When It Comes to the Senate

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — The Senate trial of President Bill Clinton makes me think of the great Japanese film "The Island." It concerned a farm family that lived on an island and whose daily routine was mostly devoted to the fetching of water from the vount internal sales. devoted to the fetching of water from the mainland. Their life was tedious, arduous,

sometimes tragic, and always engrossing.

At the end of the film, though, the camera zoomed up and off the island, revealing it to be not a universe, but a speck in the water -

a mere nothing of no account to anyone. It is the same with the Senate trial. When it is in progress, it is occasionally possible to

MEANWHILE

become engrossed, to believe that all those people - the chief justice in his doorman's stripes, the grandiloquently titled Mister

Managers — must be doing something.

But a moment away from the proceedings .— a recess, an interruption — reveals this to be like the island in the movie, unerly redious and removed. Not from a mainland, but from reality itself. The Senate is in a zone of its own making.

From time to time, for instance, someone named Mister Manager Hyde tells the Senate that the prosecutors from the House of Representatives really have a good case against

the president. This, of course, is not news. We all know that Mr. Clinton had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, that he lied about it — to his family, to his friends, to the peo-ple and under oath to Paula Jones's lawyers and Kenneth Starr's grand jury. Henry Hyde and his colleagues seem to be the only ones in America who think that they have to prove any of this.

Mr. Clinton is guilty of all this, but not of an impeachable offense.

No matter. The House managers irrationally plod on. They are like a group of madmen

dal to be over, Non-American resident

aliens share this wish. These days I find

myself clutching my shortwave radio

and excitedly moving the dial to catch

some foreign news, any foreign news.

Just as during the darkest communist

times in my native Poland when we

relied on Radio Free Europe to cir-

cumvent a total blackout of outside

young intern as a stalker. So what? Did the House managers expect Mr. Clinton to tell Mr. Blumenthal the truth --Mr. Blumenthal above all others? Not Hillary Rodham Clinton. Not the American people. Not the lawyers at the deposition or the grand jurors at the courthouse. None of these. Just Sidney Blumenthal, whose special relation-ship is not with Mr. Clinton but with the first

lady. What is the purpose of this?

The managers also asked for Vemon Jordan. the president's close friend and an accomplished Washington lawyer who tried to find Ms. Lewiosky a job. Mr. Jordan has already testified five times before the grand jury, each time maintaining he did not know Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky were once sexually involved. Ms. Lewinsky hailed from Beverly Hills. Sbe had a college degree and credit cards. He helped ber anyway — a touching concern for the privileged. In reality, he has always been accused of the implied crime of

being ton smart to be that dumb. And the third on the list is Ms. Lewinsky herself. Why? What more can she add? We know her story. The managers seem to think we do not, that it will be news to us tand the Senate) that Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky were getting it on in the Oval Office and that. afterwards, he conspired with her to cover it all up. Yes, yes, Mister Managers, we know who this president is. But being a low life is not a high crime.

Missing from the list was Betty Currie. Why? She figured in the most preposterous aspects of the president's tale. We are supposed to believe Mrs. Curric took it on her own to retrieve Mr. Clinton's gifts to Ms. Lewinsky, We are supposed to believe that she stashed these gifts and that, I guess, her husband, Bob, did not ask what a Black Dog T-shirt and a volume of "Leaves of Grass" were doing under the bed. That's no place to read Walt Whitman,

We are also supposed to believe that she really was called in one Sunday to refresh the president's memory - a coals to Newcastle task comparable only to refreshing his libido. The president had her confirm one lie after another: I was never alone with her, right? The moon is blue, right? It was his most despicable performance — the abuse of a loyal subordinate.

The country has tuned out. The trial is called historic, but it is merely blessedly rare. It proceeds in its own sphere, an epic irrelevance that seems only to uoderscore the remove of the government from the governed. John Donne wrote that no mao is an island. but the Senate surely is, lost, drifting and hidden in a fog of its own making.

Washington Post Service

Regarding "Clinton Secs Threat of

Germ Terrorism" (Jan. 23): As frightening as it is to admit, there is no real defense against unconveotional arms, Easy to make and easy to hide, they are simply part of our world. The proper response to this reality, however, is not to turn America into a technological surveillance state. Nor is it productive to rattle the saber of "disproportionate response" in the faces of governments that may have no connection to individual terrorists.

Constructive ways to mitigate the

Attacking Germ Terrorism inating America's own vast stockpile as well as restraining from foreignpolicy ventures that only inflame hatred of the United States. While these solutions may not be palatable to many in Washington, they are the only real alternatives to a policy that amounts to attacking a homet's nest with a baseball bat.

ALEXANDER ZAITCHIK Prague.

Future of Social Security

Social Security funds should not be threat of these weapons include elim- invested in the stock market. The in-

berent structure of the stock market is that of a "zero-sum game," meaning that for every winner, there is a loser. For every buyer, there is a seller. When more people want to buy than sell, stock prices go up.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This is the current situation as the "baby boomers" reach the peak of their earning power and have money to invest. But, guess what will happen when the Baby Boomers retire? They will be taking more money out of the market. There will then be more sellers than buyers, and stock prices will drop.

> BRUCE JOFFE. Piedmont, California,

Elia Kazan's Oscar

Regarding "Elio Kazan Deserves Oscar for Tolent and Integrity" (Opin-ion, Jon. 27) by Richard Cohen: I agree that Elia Kazan's films jus-

tify an Oscar, but in real life the cowardly Mr. Kazan denounced his idealistic friends through self-righteous opportunism. I prefer the movies. DAVID WASSERMAN.

Rognes, France.

Impeachment Blackout

You report that Americans all agree they want the Monica Lewinsky scan- . Studies Center.

news, so, too, it is now possible to tune in to foreign broadcasts for impeachment-free news. ANNA HUSARSKA.

New York. The writer is o fellow of the Media

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By Frank Bruni New York Times Service

UATEMALA CITY, Guatemala — 1 bad brushed away a thin black dust that kept settling on the pages of the novel I was reading at least three times before I took conscious nate of it and began looking around for its source. I was haffled. There were few trees near the pool deck where I was sitting; there was no construction under way. Just row upon row of splendidly lush hills, rising to the snub-nosed peaks of some of Guatemala's trademark volcanoes.

Volcanoes? Could it be? I wiped off another layer of ashy grime and, in my mangled Spanish, asked one of the hotel

"Pacaya," he said with a naughty smile. "Boom."
Pacaya was one of the volcanoes I could not see, the summit nearest to Guatemala City, some 30 miles away, and it had indeed gone boom.

The eruption was modest - no lava, no loss of lives - but potent enough to scatter debris all the way to my hotel in the mountain town of Antigua. It temporarily closed the airport in Guatemala City and forced the cancellation of my return flight to New York, stranding me in Guatemala for 24 bours longer than I had planned to stay. And it underscored my entire experience of what is arguably Central America's most exotic country, a place that continually provided surprises — by turns exhilarating and dehilitating, awe-in-

spiring and crazy-making.
In a relatively inexpensive, unhurried eight days — nine with the unexpected eruption - we managed to see the Maya temples in Tikal National Park near the Mexican border, the mountain-ringed idyll of Lake Atitlan, the hust-ling native market in the highland village of Chichicastenango and the colonial town of Antigua — formally Antigua Guatemala — with its narrow cobblestone streets and houtiques brimming with jade, religious ornaments and handmade textiles.

A SUPPLY OF PATIENCE But we also learned that Guatemala is not easy, that tourists who head there need to pack an ample supply of patience before they depart, Rickety, sluggish trucks clog the two-lane, serpentine, generously named highways that connect various cities and villages; what should be a one-hour drive can easily expand into three, and road signs in some areas are obscure or nonexistent. The changeable weather makes it difficult to choose the right time or day to ascend a volcano or rent a boat.

Then there is the crime, or at least the fear of it. Although Guatemala is no longer plagued by the political instability of 5 or 10 years ago, it remains an impoverished country in which wealthy foreign tourists are conspicuous and, according to some travel guides and the U.S. State Department, ready prey. Tourists bave been robbed, assaulted and, in the widely publicized case of five American college students traveling in a group from Maryland last year, raped.

My experience and those of other tourists with whom I the bumpy gravel and dirt road from a squalid village to the touch suggested that this threat was overblown, but it trail head. spoke suggested that this threat was overblown, but it nonetheless restricts the movements of any cautious trav-

On our first full day, we took, for about \$200 each, a daylong trip to Tikal National Park that included round-trip airfare for the 45-minute flight from Guatemala City to the small northern city of Flores, transportation between the Flores airport and the park and a guide for exploration of the Maya ruins, scattered throughout a dense jungle inhabited by rare hirds and spider monkeys. We saw our first monkey no more than a few yards down the footpath into the park.

The astonishingly intact ruins, mostly dating from around A.D. 700, are spread out over several square miles that also include some structures still being excavated, and they are a revelation, accessible to tourists in a way they would not be in a more developed country. The difference, I'm convinced. in a more developed country. The difference, I'm convinced, is liability. If these steeply graded stone temples, with jagged facades that resemble crude staircases, were situated in, say, the Arizona desert, they would undoubtedly be cordoned off. In Tikal, a visitor can climb to the top of each pyramidal structure, a hair-raising experience surpassed only by the trip back down. Going in that direction, we were forced to slitter backward, bellies to stone lest vertice and utter paris. backward, bellies to stone, lest vertigo and utter panic

We felt like fools, until our guide assured us that more intropid tourists had met ghastly fates. He said that one American teenager took a furious tumble and broke a dozen bones. A German tourist intent on videotaping his descent lost control of more than his camera and ended up in a

We heaved sighs of relief and reassured ourselves that no other activity on our trip would prove so nerve-wracking. We had yet to reach Lake Atitlan, where a volcano beckoned us toward its clood-shrouded apex.

It is astonishing that the mention of Atitlan does not prompt the instant recognition among travelers that the names Tahoe or Como do, because Atirlan's beauty easily trumps that of more famous lakes. Aritlan lies about 5,100 feet (1,550 meters) above sea level, and the three volcanoes along its shores rise to peaks averaging about 10,000 feet. Moreover, the villages along the 50-square-mile lake are still inhabited by modernday Mayas wearing traditional dress, kaleidoscopic garments

immering with purple, orange and crimson threads. But it took us nearly three hours by car to reach Atitlan from Guatemala City on the Pan-American Highway, and the natural wonder we encountered was less than lovingly maintained. May a women use it as a laundry basin, and littercoats some of its shores.

Such was the legacy of our volcano adventure. Heeding travel books and advisories that warned of occasional robberies along hiking trails, we spent what was considered top dollar - about 75 apiece - to hire a guide to take us across the lake and up the slopes of the volcano of San Pedro. This bought us passage in a crowded, dirty motorboat and then 15 minutes in therefuse-strewn bed of a pickup truck navigating

The climb itself was pure torture — the incline of the weedtangled, rock-studded path was sometimes close to vertical and after the first of the three and a half hours to the summit at 9,908 feet, any views were obscured by the dense tree cover. When we reached the top, our reward was sweat-soaked clothing, burning thighs, altitude-aggravated shortness of breath and an impenetrable fog that diminished visibility to about 75 feet. A Dutch couple whose curses had occasionally been andible from about 100 feet ahead of us on the trail lay inert on a mossy boulder, but they seemed to be breathing. At least, we thought, the hard part was over.

Then a veritable monsoon hit, turning the air frigid and the narrow trail into a treacherous mudslide. As we habystepped our way down in sneakers ill-suited for such conditions, my feet flew out from under me at least a dozen times; my sister tumbled repeatedly into thorny bramble. The blood from ber scratches mingled with tears from her terror, prompting an epiphany, Never, she vowed, would she go on vacation with me again.

HE next morning, we awoke with sore throats, high temperatures and muscles so shredded we could barely get out of bed. Fortunately, we had a full day to recuperate before our next destination. Even more fortunately the recuperate before our next destination. Even more fortunately the recuperate before the proof of the best and the recuperate of the proof tunately, that destination, after a brief stop in Chichicastenango, was the Casa Santo Domingo, a five-star hotel of nonpareil beauty in the relaxing and refined village of Antigua, Guaternala's colonial capital in the 16th, 17th and 8th centuries.

Casa Santo Domingo's labyrinth-like series of dark stone hallways and column-fringed courtyards ramble through the ruins of a 17th-century Dominican monastery, and the hotel's attentive caretakers evoke the sacred aura of the place with a multitude of religious statues and flickering candles that, at night, are pretty much the sole source of light (except, of course in quest rooms). Fresh flower catals flow attention of course, in guest rooms). Fresh flower petals float atop the tiny concrete pools that dot the public areas.

All of this, plus a room with a fireplace and terrace, cost

about \$100 a night.

Antigua itself is miracle of painstaking preservation, its buildings and streets little changed over the last 200 years. To wander through the center of the town, which has about 35,000 residents, is to encounter the remnants of convents, monasteries and elaborately sculprured churches huilt between the mid-1500s and the mid-1700s. The views of the surrounding volcanoes change as clouds gather, disperse and scuale from one horizon to the next.

Antigua also boasts craft stores tucked into quiet courtyards with ornate gardens, quaint bars and restaurants that offer sophisticated cuisine not easily found elsewhere in the country. We enjoyed a fine dinner at Meson Panza Verde, which serves its beef and pork dishes in rich sauces laced with Cognac and cream. With a bortle of wine from the extensive list, two people can stuff themselves for around \$70.



By Frances Frank Marcus

Ruins at Tikal National Park, most duting from around

A.D. 700, are spread out over several square miles.

AN JOSE, Costa Rica — A red dugout canoe floated on the calm aqua sea, orchids were blooming in the garden, large grapefruit and limes hung languorously in the orchard. And on a steep slope above, we glimpsed the edge of a deep green, mysterious Costa Rican rain forest. Nothing wrong with the view. But something was definitely amiss. A rather big something.

Surveying the vista from our room at the top of the stairs in a jungle lodge reachable only by boat, we could see the canoe, citrus trees and forest clearly for a good reason. On three there was nothing but tropical sea air. Our room was almost without walls. My husband and I had known this in advance but even so, seeing it up close was disquieting. In any case, the space was now ours, and paid for in advance.

We set down three small pieces of linggage. Then there

was a flutter of wings. A large toucan flapped straight toward us, stopping a few feet away in the branches of a tall water

apple tree.

There was a reason for staying in a room that was halfporch at the top of the lodge operated by Rainbow Adventures-Costa Rica, in the southwestern part of the country
near Panama. It is set in a 1,200-acre (480-hectare) rain forest, blessed with spectacular scenery and gorgeous hirds. Here, we wanted to test an idea embraced by Alec Waugh, the English writer, who liked to size up unlamiliar territory from a veranda. Like him, we wanted to find out if we could see a respectable amount of jungle life from the edges.

"Either you are the explorer, who leaves no corner unexamined, who hurries from place to place collecting and coditying facts; or else you are the observer," Waugh wrote in "Hot Countries," his book about travels in the tropics. "Myself, I have always chosen to let life come to me."

Still, there were questions. The main one: How much of our third-floor room would we be sharing and with how many varieties of wildlife? Costa Rica is said to have 850 species of hird and more than 35,000 species of insect, including hordes of mosquitoes. We had learned that Rainbow's owner, Michael Medill, had not installed ceiling fans

because they could annihilate humminghirds. Our trip to Rainbow Adventures began with a flight from

plane 50 minutes southeast over the mountains to Puerto limenez, a village on the Golfo Dulce near the Pacific Ocean. We were headed for the Osa Peninsula and Lapa Rios, an upscale jungle lodge, where the rooms were protected by mesh screens. Two mornings later we checked out and climbed into a four-wheel drive truck that would take us to Puerto Jimenez for the boat trip across the Golfo Dulce to our

room without walls.

At Rainbow, built in a grassy clearing between the volcanic sand beach and the steep forested ridge, Brian Strehlow, a co-manager, wearing camp counselor shorts and T-shirt, was waiting as we stepped from the skiff onto rocks

In our third-floor room at the top of the stairs, we walked into a hodgepodge of collectibles, panels of stained glass. small tables of Art Nouveau objects, several vases filled with bouquets of fresh flowers, faded prints on the wall and polished hardwood floors. Fine mesh mosquito netting shadowed the double bed.

Downstairs on the breezy veranda, a home-style lunch was delicious: fresh tamarind juice, a soft tamale with chicken and fresh vegetables and a salad of marinated cauliflower.

Energized by the tamarind juice, we decided to go for a walk with Brian, included in the daily rate for room and meals. On an easy trek wading up one of Rainbow's clear rocky streams we saw a green kingfisher in a wild avocado tree, beautiful fungi that looked like tiny white caps growing on tree limbs, and a plant-species with an elephantine trunk. But we saw nothing on our walk as beguiling as the frangipani tree in Rainbow's side garden, festooned with

hanging clumps of pastel orchids growing in coconut busks
— though the ylang-ylang tree with a languid yellow flower
came close. Hummingbuds sipped from the bird-of-paradise-like blossoms of the heliconia plant. The tree sheltering a family of bats was less appealing.

After dinner that evening, we drifted outside to look for tree frogs and other creatures near the 48-foot nonchlorinated, spring-fed swimming pool, part of Rainbow's even-ing ritual. The frogs flatten themselves against green leaves until they are almost two-dimensional. There were plenty of

frogs but no sign of the boa constrictor that had visited the pool area a few days before. Night falls early in Costa Rican jungles, and so do bird- New York Times.

San Jose, Costa Rica's mountainous capital, in a twio-engine watchers. By about 10 P.M. you crawl under the mosquito oetting to wait for dawn, when you're awakened by silvery bird calls. Later the rain came down in torrents, but the room stayed dry, protected by the wide roof overhang. Beyond the buckets of rain that fell in the inky black, I was aware only of perfume from the ylang-ylang tree.

The next day after breakfast, we left the veranda for a trip

to the main attraction in Rainbow's world, Casa de Orquidias, a botanical garden that is a 15- or 20-minute boat ride south of the lodge. The garden was created by two Americans, Ron and Trudy MacAllister. The beguiling 70-acre garden surrounding the small bouse they built them-

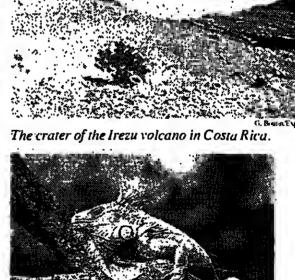
selves 19 years ago out of native woods lies between the

. In the garden's wild tangle of tropical splendors - plants growing on top of plants and sprouting from every visible cranny - one orchid species grows up to 12 feet tall and another has a bloom no higger than four pinheads. Inviting pathways curve through thickets of mango, papaya, uanabana, cashews, and star fruit trees, spiky bromeliads, giant strangler figs, heliconias, a variety of gingers and countless other species. There were cactuses, which grow much faster in Costa Rica than in the desert, and a palm tree that. Trudy said, "you can see grow — five feet in two weeks. I sit on my porch and watch it grow."

THE FINAL TALLY

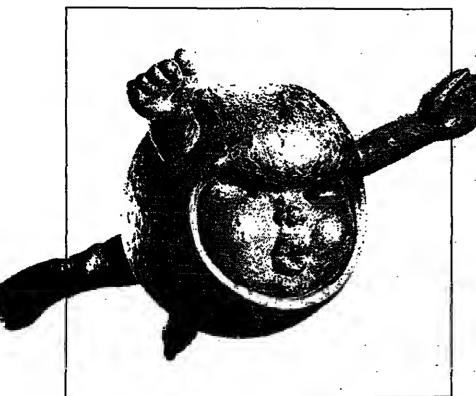
Back at Rainbow, early the next morning, just before leaving, I sat in front of the lodge on a seaside bench made of a split log for a last look, spotting brown pelicans circling above dolphins. The pelicans followed our boat south to Golfito and its small landing strip. Waiting for the plane back to San Jose, we sat on a bench under trees hung with hromeliads. My wildlife tally after two days beside the rain forest was paltry by Costa Rican standards: a dozen bird species I could name, dozens of others I couldo't name, an agile racoonlike coatimondi, and no mosquito bites. But what we did see was choice. And we had learned what we had hoped to learn, that you can see quite a bit without straying far from a veranda.

Frances Frank Marcus is o frequent contributor to The



A green iguana on its jungle perch.

From Night Safari to Museums, a Youthful Tour of Singapore



"Freedom Child," 1978, by the Singapore sculptor Ng Eng Teng.

By Katherine Knorr stional Herold Tribune

INGAPORE - There are a lot of good ways to spend time with kids in Singapore. What makes this city-state sometimes boring and sometimes disturbing to adults — its firm government and its enforced orderliness — makes it an ideal place to travel with children: It's clean and safe, relatively unpolluted, full of tropical gardens, multicultural food and shopping malls for all ages.

The kitschy Night Safari, on the north side of the island, is a definite kid hir, with its spookily lighted animals. "in their habitat." (check out the

lighted animals : in their habitat " (check out the anteater) and the little train that takes you through to spy on them.

Singapore is also working at expanding its museums, all part of attracting that tourist dollar, and although none is truly worth a detour, they make a nice break from the sultry Somerset Maugham climate.

STATE-OF-THE-ART VIDEO The major museums are oot specifically aimed at kids, but they have gone to great lengths to be accessible and fun, with state-of-the-art video connections to back up the exhibits with background information that comes close to giving you the recipe for replicating that nice piece of "kitchen" Qing

Indeed visitors to the museums are bound to see characteristically near and quiet school groups with a few hours off from excelling in the classroom, to peer into their island's past.

It has to be said that Singapore, despite its best intennous, isn't particularly rich in Asian, or

even specifically Chinese art - many of the collections are borrowed from private collectors, and are therefore quirky and incomplete from any historical standpoint. But the very quirkiness of the museums can be a draw for a change of pace.

This visitor's favorite was the Asian Civilisations Museum, the first part of what will be a larger museum devoted to the cultural history of

KIDS

Asia. The first museum, in the refurbished old Tao Nan School, also offers an opportunity — rare in Singapore — to wander through colonialstyle architecture, all mission white walls and dark banisters.

The museum, which concentrates on Chinese civilization (the next phase, to open in a few years in the Empress Place Building, will look more widely at Asian culture), makes up for the modesty of its collections with interesting and

intelligent display.

In a fairly short tour, an hour or so, you get a sense of Chinese civilization high and low through architecture, furniture, porcelain and enamelware, burial artifacts, writing mensils, jewelry and so on —all of it practical rather than abstract and so a draw for kids' eyes.

The tour starts with a small but highly amusing display, on the Peranakan, or Straits

Chinese, who emigrated from China in the 19th century to form Chinese communities in the Straits settlements.

Among the embroidered fabrics and the elab-Among the embroidered raphics and the elaborate porcelain created for the huge weddings of merchants' children are highly ornate beaded mules and purses, high in tangy color and in the unmistakable image of that great old Asian heroine Betty Boop.

At the National University of Singapore, near the Lee Kong Chian museum (probably too academic for kids), look into the Ng Eng Teng Gallery, devoted to the works of the Singaporean sculptor. Although most of his work is stark and haunting, there is also much playfulness in bis pottery, which makes up about one-third of the gallery space, and in his great rocking works in ciment fondu, which kids will love.

On a much larger scale the Singapore Art Museum, housed in the handsome old St. Joseph's mission school, is another major government project.

Devoted to contemporary art from Asia, it suffers from the same malady as many con-temporary art museums around the world: Much of the work, which wishes to be both playful and youthful and profound, tends to be cartoonish or

otherwise garisb — but to each his own.

The collection does offer a good sampling of the work of such Singaporean pioneers as the the work of such Singaporean pioneers as unlate Georgette Chen, and of young artists from Thailand to Vietnam to Burma, high in color and in modern angst. There is enough goofy art to please the kids and there is a nice coffee shop.



Off and Running With the Euro

By Roger Collis

Volcanos RAVELERS are learning to love the euro — the new single Enropean currency that came into being on Jan. 1. You will no longer have to figure out how many lire to the dollar or pesetas to the French anc or Belgian francs to the guilder.

With euro coins and notes hot due to enter enculation for three years, the euro may seem unreal: an invisible currency that can only be used in noncash transacoons, such as charge-card payments, traveler'a checks and direct debits.

On Jan. 1, 2002, euro notes and coins will be introduced and all prices will be posted in euros. National currencies will be gradually withdrawn and will cease to be legal tender by June 30, 2002, at the latest. The four European Union members that are not in the European monetary union - Britain, Denmark Sweden and Greece — may join the second wave around 2002.

Consolidating your expenses in euros means that you just have one foreign-exchange cost — between the euro and your own currency, such as dollars, yen or the British pound. And with a eurodollar exchange rate of about 1.16, it's easy to see what you're spending (think of the euro as slightly heavier than the dollar) and compare euro prices - and therefore the value of goods and services in various countries.

CROSS-BORDER SERVICES

Price transparency in the 11 countries of the euro zone — Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain — will make it much easier to shop for the best cross-border air fares, hotel rates and other travel services in different countries once all prices are posted in euros. This ability to compare prices should lead to more competition and bring prices more in line across borders.

It's worth stating the obvious that

during the three-year transition, national currencies still exist alongside the euro. The 11 euro-zone currencies are locked in a fixed exchange rate with the euro. Thus, there are 6.55957 French francs, 40.3399 Belgian-Luxembourg francs and 1.95583 Deutsche marks to the euro. So there are no more flucmarions between the euro currencies and, therefore, no exchange costs because they are all expressions of the

same money — the euro.
However, don't expect merchants or banks to round all those decimal points np or down in your favor. And some banks in euro-zone countries are charging "handling fees" — officially frowned upon in Brussels - to replace the "spread" between the buy and sell rates for currencies that you see posted in banks and exchange bureaus.

Single-currency rules apply also to the four countries outside the euro zone Britain, Sweden, Greece and Denmark, so that if you want to change, say, French francs to Dentsche marks in London, you should be able to save money through the fixed-rate system. But many banks still charge for two foreign-exchange spreads by taking you through the pound. Banks nor-mally make 1 to 3 percent on each transaction. So you could end up paying 6 percent.

Travelers are seeing prices posted in euros alongside national currencies. But you are not obliged to pay in euros — nor are merchants obliged to accept euros during the three-year transition. But it makes sense to start thinking euros, and make as many transactions as possible in euros with euro-denominated traveler's checks or on your charge card.

Most major airlines accept the new currency. Travelers, for example, oo Air France or British Airways flights from euro-zooe countries can choose to pay in euros or local currency. Major hotel chains are "euro compliant."

American Express, Thomas Cook and Visa International issue euro traveler's checks in denominations of 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros, and banks are starting to issue euro-denominated credit and debit cards for corporate and individual travelers.

Keith Meyrick, director of worldwide-acceptance traveler's checks at American Express, said: "We've been selling about \$100,000 a day in euro checks since Jan. 1. Apart from Europe. the majority of sales are in long-hand markets - like Japan, the United States, Australia and Korea. People are saying: 'I'm visiting two or three countries, so instead of taking dollars, francs or Deutsche marks in cash or checks, I'll just take euros, which is a distinct advantage traveling across borders.*

Paying by card is likely to be more straightforward. You don't need a curodesignated card to deal in curos — your normal card works the same as for any foreign currency. If you pay in euros, euros will show up on your statement, converted into your currency - or at the fixed rate if you live in a curo-zone country. There is no financial gain, but it enables you to compare prices in euros and makes it easier to fill out expense

REQUENT travelers to Europe should consider opening a euro hank account and getting a curodenominated card. Thus, whatever the transaction currency, your statement will be expressed in curos. This depends on your bank's capability. Citibank has launched a euro current account and debit card - where payments are taken directly out of your account - while some banks, such as NatWest in Britain, are planning to launch corporate euro cards. Lloyds says it can open a euro account in London with a euro dehit

card beginning March 1. Hasan Alemdar, head of the singlecurrency unit at Visa International, said, "Judging from cross-border euro transactions going through our system in the last three weeks, acceptance of the euro is quite wide and will increase. A significant proportion of euro traffic is from Belgian, French, Spanish and Portuguese card-holders.

A SIMPLE PLAN Directed by Sam Raimi. U.S.

"Nobody'd ever believe that you'd be capable of doing what you've done," the once wholesome main character in "A Simple Plan" is told by his wife, at a point when he can barely believe it himself. Though he begins the story innocently enough, Hank Mitchell (Bill Paxton) winds up digging himself ever deeper into a hole that's impossible to escape. However straightforwardly these events are described, they become ever more gripping and unsettling as the film proceeds. Exactly how and why a chance event escalates to such intensity is at the heart of this quietly devastating thriller directed by Sam Raimi, the cult horror director ("The Evil Dead") who makes a flawless segue into mainstream storytelling. And in an acting collaboration that is as fine as their first, and could share its title ("One False Move"), Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton play our the consequences of a harmless-sounding error in judgment that winds up leveling everything in its path. Adapted by Scott B. Smith from his suspenseful and highly cinematic best-seller, it begins with the irresistible hook of a windfall that drops out of the sky. Hank and two other men accidentally happen onto a small airplane that has crashed while carrying \$4.4 million in cargo. What they do about this, and how they do it, will shape their fates forever. The plan of the title: Hank decides he will take the money and hide it for a while, waiting to see if anyone comes to claim it. He assumes this responsibility because he is the only member of the trio who has a job (at a feed store) and shows any sign of responsibility. The other two men are Hank's childlike brother Jacob, who is played with both sweetness and an edge of danger by Thornton, and Jacob's friend Lon (Brent Briscoe), later described as "a 40-year-old out-of-work high-school dropout who's proud when people call him the town drunk." So Hank, who has a tidy little home, a pretty wife and a baby on the way, is clearly the man in charge. But Hank's wife, Sarah (Bridget Fonda), mms out to be an unexpectedly powerful player in this drama. Right away, she suggests that Hank return \$500,000 to the plane, to ward off suspicions of looting. This winds up having terrible consequences when a nosy farmer gets in the way, and it's only the beginning of the story's lethal complications. The film becomes ever more enveloping as a well-honed morality tale rising to a near-biblical

AU COEUR DU MENSONGE

level of punishment for its characters'

transgressions. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

Directed by Claude Chabrol, France. Claude Chabrol hovers over his whodunns like a congenial host who enjoys spooking the guests. A kind of French Hitchcock who shows more interest in what his characters eat than in the horrors they may commit. Over the years, his pleasures have been our pleasures, but since the delectable "Poulet au Vinaigre;" he has served the same reBill Paxton, left, and Billy Bob Thornton in Sant Raimi's "A Simple Plan." hiko Kawagoe, to make a movie about a cipe — murder in the provinces among good losers, bad bourgeois — with care-less ease that looks sloppy. "Au coeur du mensonge" (At the Heart of a Lie) small-time punk named Ryuji, a film Kaneko would write, star in and eventakes place in St. Malo and opens on the murder of a little girl who has been raped. Rene (Jacques Gamblin), an art

teacher, is the last known person to have seen her. An artist who doesn't sell, he behaves in a jerky, asocial fashion, like a natural suspect. Viviane (Sandrine Bonnaire), the local nurse, ourtures and covers for this difficult husband. The inspector in charge of the case (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi) has countless red herrings on her path, among them, a cynical Parisian writer named Germain-Roland Desmot (Antoine de Caunes) who sullies everything he touches. The actors are fine, although Gamhlin seems to think he's in a movie about Van Gogh, but the denouement is not based on the characters' personalities. Can Viviane really prepare a lobster feast for Desmot

when she knows the worst about him?

Can we swallow it? Chabrol spikes his

mix with witty lines, Prozac popping

(Joan Dupont, IHT)

MOVIE GUIDE

and child abuse, but he eats and enjoys

Directed by Toru Kawashima, Japan. Fifteen years ago an extraordinarily talented but completely unknown stage actor named Shoji Kaneko brought together a number of people, including the director Toru Kawashima and a first-time feature photographer, Michi-

tually edit. The result was the most honest yakuza film ever made (Kaneko joined a Shinjuku gang and became a real punk in order to learn), and when it was released in 1983 it won a number of local awards. Unfortunately, it was never fully distributed. The reason was that Kaneko died at the age of 33, just weeks after finishing this remarkable first film, and the impetus went out of the project. The distribution company shelved it and that would have been the end of it except that, strangely, "Ryuji" lived on. The few who had seen the film talked about it, never forgot it, told their friends and in a decade "Ryuji" had become a cult film. When it recently came out on video, it was a smash, and now finally it is being theatrically revived in Japan and shown, one hopes, in a few foreign festivals. The big screen is where this detailed and enormously moving film belongs. One needs to see Kaneko's eyes when Ryuji changes his mind, to see that wide, arrogant mouth turn tender when he plays with his little girl (played by Kaneko's real daughter), to see him plain at the end, succumbing. failing to go straight, back in his lids, aimlessly, helplessly walking the dark Shinjuku streets. There are no Tarantino hot-shots, no punchy Kitano heroes - just an empty, terrified man who once again turns to the ease of vio-(Donald Richie, IHT)



BRITAIN

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, tel: (171) 704-9522, open daily. To April 11: "Zang Tumb Tumb: The Futurist Graphic Revolution." Manifestos, book covers and magazines explore the graphic revolution brought about by Futurist artists between 1909 and 1943. National Gallery, tel: (171) 747-2865, open daily. To April 25: "Portraits by Ingres: Images of an Epoch," 40 painted portraits and 50 portrait drawings of the aristocrats, the merchants, the bankars and the diplomats of tha Napoleonic era and their wives, both in France and Italy, by the

rench painter (1780-1867). www.netionalgallery.org.uk Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. Continu-ing/To April 11: "Monet in the 20th Century. Eighty paintings from the final decades of the artist's life. www.royalacademy.org.uk

FRANCE

Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: 01-44-78-12-33, closed Tuesdays. To April 26: "David Hockney: Espace/Paysage." Brings together approximately 50 paintings, photographs and installations exploring landscapes, a recent orientation in the work of the British painter (born 1937). The exhibition will travel to Bonn.

GERMANY

Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, tel: (221) 221-23-82, closed Mondays. To Fab. 21: "Fin de Siècla: Graphic Art in Europe Around 1900." More than 150 graphic works reflect the fin-de-slecie mood of nostalgia and optimism over the future, as well as the influences of impressionism, Symbolism end Art Nou-veau, Features works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Edward Munch and James Ensor.

ORIZCE

ACROSS

t Panama hat

Horace

23 Blasted

Museum of Cycledic Art, tel: (1) 722-8321, closed Sundays and Tuesdays. To Jan. 31: "Iberian Antiquities." On bare 31: "Characteristics." tiquities." On loan from the Shelby



Humor and imagination in a London exhibition: Futurist alphabet letters take on the shapes of dancers.

White and Leon Levy Collection of Antiquities in New York, 70 objects representing the cultures that flour-ished in the Iberian Peninsula from the middle of the third millennium B.C. to the Roman conquest.

www.kyklos.gr/cycladic-m/

ITALY

Museo Stibbert, tel: 055-448-6049, closed Thursdays. To April 30: "L'Abito per Il Corpo, il Corpo per l'Abito: Islam e Occidente a Confronto." More than 120 costumes allow the comparison between structured European clothes and the flowing garments

Bunkamura Museum of Art. tel: (3) 3272-8600, open daily. Continuing/ To Feb. 14: "Masterpieces from the Musee de l'Orangerie." Eighty works by Cez-anne, Renoir, Matisse and Picasso, from the Jaan Walter and Paul Guillauma collection in Paris. www.nition.net/bunkamura

SWITZERLAND

Kunsthaus Zurich, tel: (1) 251-6765, closed Mondays. To April 25: "Chagail, Kandinsky.

AMERICAS

for Life in tha Late Middla Ages." National Gallery of Art, Washington. Fab. 2: "Jackson Pollock." Mu-

seum of Modern Art. New York.

of Painting." Shanghai Museum, Shanghai, China.

Feb. 2: "This Joy of Color: The Merzbacher Collection." The Israci Museum, Jerusalem.



Yele Center for British Art, tel: (203) 432-2800, closed Mondays. Reopening after extensive renov-ation, the center presents parallel in different ways, contributed to the evolution of British art in the 20th Etchings." More than 40 etchings created by the British painter (born 1922) over the last 20 years; "Henry Moore and the Heroic: A Centenar Tribute." Twenty sculptures dating from the 1930s through the 70s; "Francis Bacon: A Retrospective Exhibition." Sudy paintings of human agures. www.yale.edulycba

CLOSING SOON

Jan. 31: "Love and War: A Manual

Jan. 31: "Contemporary Portuguese Architecture: Ses, Stone and Space." Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong. Jan. 31: "Zao Wou-Ki: Sixty Years

Jan. 31: "Luca Signoreill in British Collections." National Gallery, Jan. 31: "L'Ama de la Russia Dans ses Icones." Tolt de la Grande

MIDDLE EAST

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

BOOKS

MARA AND DANN

An Adventure By Doris Lessing, 407 pages. \$25. Harper Flamingo.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

ITH "Mara and Dann," Doris Lessing returns to Africa, the continent that so richly inspired her earliest fiction. The place is now called Ifrik, however, and it's light years removed from the Africa described with such realism and ardor in her early Martha Quest novels. Though closer, in many respects. to the remote, mythic realms conjured up

in her "Canopus in Argos" series, it's

even less imaginatively rendered. "Mara and Dann" takes place in the distant future, thousands and thousands of years after a great ice age has destroyed civilization. Most of the world is still uninhabitable, and a killing drought has turned most of southern Ifrik into a desert. Among the refugees making their way north are Mara and Dann, the heroes of this rambling, picaresque novel. Their tiresome adventures not only recapitulate assorted myths and fables but also embody several of Lessing's favorite themes: the ever shifting reladonship between individuals and sociery, and the eternal tension between domesticity and freedom, responsibility and independence.

As the novel opens, another of Lessing's coolly omniscient narrators in-forms us that 7-year-old Mara and her 4-vear-old brother, Dann, have been abducted and taken for their safekeeping to a remote Rock People's village. Their murdered parents were members of the Mahondi royal court, it seems, and the two children - much like Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia in "Star Wars" -have been given new identitles for their own protection.

In the Rock People's village, a kindly

old woman named Daima looks after Mara and Dann. Water and food are painfully scarce here, and the few people in the village who have not left in search of a bener life are close to dying of starvacion. Life, in fact, is conducted on a sort of Stone Age subsistence level: Virtually all knowledge of technology and science has been lost, and even basic facts of history have slipped into the misty realm of rumor and legend.

Years pass, and Dann leaves the village with two strangers, while Mara stays on to care for the ailing Daima. The drought has worsened, and the two women are now the village's only residents. More years pass, Daima dies and Dann returns to rescue his sister. The two then set off, with their family legacy of 50 gold pieces, and head north, like so many refugees before them.

The remainder of Lessing's novel quickly devolves into a series of repetitious and annoyingly predictable encounters with evil villains, kindly benefactors and unforgiving weather. Mara and Dann doggedly make their way through hot, dusty deserts and menacing little towns filled with spies and informers. One or the other of them is constantly heing kidnapped, enslaved or drafted into an army. And the other one is constantly rescuing his or her sihling.

Virtually all the bad people Mara and Dann meet are short, thick and ugly; virtually all the good people they meet are tall, thin and gracious. These Manichaean dichotomies are not the only thing that this novel has in common with Lessing's "Canopus in Argos" series; the books also share a fairy tale flamess, an overfondness for easy symholism and a tendency to look at human affairs from a telescopie distance that reduces all governments, all peoples to pawns in a cosmic cycle of "rise and fall, fall and rise."

The problem is that "Mara and Dann" lacks the operatie grandeur of the "Canopus" novels, and it also feels perfunctory in the extreme, as if the author were randomly stringing one incident upon the last, one crisis upon another. Although the kindhearted Mara is a sympathetic heroine - a survivor, like so many of Lessing's women, who is defined largely by her travails - she is a pallid, two-dimensional version of the characters who were delineated with such psychological and social detail in

the anthor's early, more realistic work. As for Dann, he is a hodgepodge of male attitudes and postures, alternately childish and eommanding, mercenary and protective. The minor characters in the novel are crude types, not individuals, people defined solely by their role in helping or hindering Mara and Dann in their quest to move north.

In the end, the moral of this cautionary tale is equally simplistie. It's a moral about the catastrophic destruction of eivilization, a moral that has surfaced many times before in Lessing's work (in as early a novel as "The Four Gated City and again and again throughout the "Canopus" series) but never quite as simplistically as in this dreary novel.

Of the so-called aneients - that is. modern human beings who were supposedly killed off by the ice age -Lessing writes in her flat-footed way: 'These were peoples who had no interest in the results of their actions. They killed out the animals. They poisoned the fish in the sea. They cut down forests. so that country after country, once forested, became desert or arid. They spotled everything they touched. There was probably something wrong with their brains. There are many historians who believe that these ancients richly deserved the punishment of the Ice. New York Times Service

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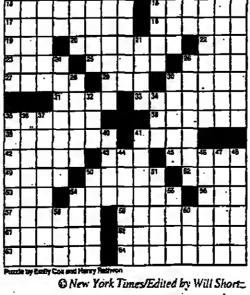
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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

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needs, and gets, a very lucky heart position to succeed. dummy, cash three red-suit nominated for the best The club king was led, and winners ending in dummy, defense of 1998. PLAYER who is de- South won with the ace and and ruff diamonds and clubs. A fending a slam and has J led his singleton diamond. He would end up with four x x x in trump with a side ace Dummy's queen was taken by side-suit tricks, and eight ruffs, with East's spade jack

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But Robson, looking trump holding. Robson's potential trump 5 % trick, which he had appar. Pass

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West led the club king

A Phone Intercept Links Belgrade to an Order to Kill 45 in Kosovo

By R. Jeffrey Smith Washington Post Service

RACAK, Yugoslavia - A troop and police attack on this Kosovo village two weeks ago, which led to the death of 45 ethnic Albanian civilians, was carried out at the order of senior officials of the Serbian-led Belgrade government, who then orchestrated a cover-up attempt after an international outcry, according in Western intercepts of telephone conversations.

Angered by the slaying of three policemen in Kosovo, the officials ordered government forces to "go in heavy" on Jan. 15 and search Racak for ethnic Albanian guerrillas believed responsible for the ambush slayings, according to Western sources familiar with the

As the civilian death toll from the assault mounted and criticism spread, a high-ranking political figure in Belgrade and a senior commander of security operations in Kosovo sought to cover up what had taken place, according to the monitored conversations.

Details of the conversations shed new light on the attack and its aftermath, which have again brought NATO to the brink of confrontation with President Slobodan Milosevic over his govern-ment's repression of separatist ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

In a series of conversations, the Belgrade official and the general expressed concern about reaction to the Racak killings and discussed how to make them look as if they had resulted from a battle between troops and insurgents of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The objective was to challenge elaims by survivors — later supported by international monitors — that the victims had been killed in an executionstyle massacre.

Yugoslav Army troops and police units of the Serbian Interior Ministry have waged an 11-month campaign against ethnic Albanian guerrillas seeking independence for Kosovo.

In an October accord imposed on President Milosevic, under the threat of NATO air strikes, the Yugoslav leader agreed to withdraw some of his forces from Kosovo. The conflict eased as both sides maintained an unofficial truce.

That changed in Racak when army and police units converged on the area. As a result of the attack, the village has been transformed into a ghostly place, empty of people.

Many of its houses, cloaked by a

dense fog obscuring surrounding ice-covered thickets and leafless trees, were shattered by direct fire from three T-55 tanks. Now there are only a few dogs, braying donkeys and other barnyard an-

One source familiar with the phone calls between military leaders in Kosovo and officials in Belgrade on Jan. 15 and succeeding days said they showed that the intent was to find three guerrillas accused in the ambush of a police convoy on Jan. 8 near Racak. 'It was a search and destroy mis-

sion" with explicit approval in Belgrade, the source said.

As tank and artillery fire and the chatter of machine-guns echoed nff the hills surrounding Racak, the Belgrade political figure called the general in Kosovo, according to Western sources The Belgrade official was aware that the assault was under way, and be

wanted to know how many people had been killed. The general replied that as of that moment the tally was 22. In calls over the following days, the two expressed concern about the outcry and discussed how to make the killings

look like the result of a battle. One measure the Belgrade official advocated in his calls was to seal

Kosovo's border with Macedonia to prevent Louise Arbour, the UN war crimes tribunal prosecutor, from entering the province.

Another measure was to demand that Interior Ministry troops regain control of Racak and get the bodies. Serbs assaulted the village Jan. 17. The following day they seized the bodies at a mosque and transferred them to a morgue in Pristina, the capital.

A third measure was to explore whether the killings could be blamed on an independent group that supposedly came to the region and attacked the residents of Racak after government troops had left.

The official was advised that making such a claim was not feasible.

Shortly after the Jan. 15 attack, a Yugoslav spokesman said that the bodies found on the hillside were armed, uniformed members of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The account was challenged by international inspectors and journalists who arrived on the scene Jan. 16 and found dozens of corpses on the ground,

all in civilian clothes.

Government officials later alleged that some of the victims had been accidentally caught in cross-fire between

international outrage.

But survivors, diplomatic observers and rebels who were in the area at the time of the killings say that little shooting occurred inside the town early in the assault Jan. 15 and that oo battle was under way at around 1 P.M., when most of the victims were evidently killed.

These sources say that Kosovo Liberation Army forces were not deployed near a gully where at least 23 of the bodies were found, and that none of the trees in the area bore bullet marks as would be expected after a battle.

A team of forensic pathologists that arrived in Kosovo from Finland last Friday, a week after the killings, found nothing to contradict these accounts, according to a Western official.

"A picture is beginning to emerge from the autopsies, and it is a tragic one," said another source, explaining that the types of wound indicate they were "humiliated" before being fired on from several directions. The last of the antopsies were ex-

pected to be completed on Wednesday, and the Finnish pathologists said their final report would be ready next week.

Their preliminary conclosion is con-

sistent with an account given on Jan. 16
by Imri Jakupi, 32, a resident of Racak
who said he escaped into the woods.
He said that he and other men had
been rounded up by security forces in
ouse-to-house searches. security forces and rebels or were de-liberately slain by guerrillas to provoke by Imri Jakupi, 32, a resident of Racak been rounded up by security forces in house-to-house searches and ordered to walk along a ravine before troops "star-

ted shooting from the hills at us." of snooting from the mile at us.

Villagers told inspectors and reporter ers at the scene on Jan. 17 that many of the dead were last seen alive in the hands of Interior Ministry troops wearing hlack ski masks. Survivors said they managed to recognized some local policemen and Serbian civilians in the

Mr. Jakupi and another Racak resident, Rem Shabani, said they had overheard what some of what the troops were saying on their walkie-talkies as two groups of men were being led away from the village.

"How many of them are there?" one soldier asked. When the reply came back as 29, Mr. Shabani recalled, the order given was: "O.K., bring them !

Mr. Jakupi said he then overheard another order: "Now get ready to

He fled, he said, before the shots rang

In Missile Alert, U.S. Jets Hit Iraqi Air Defense Site

INCIRLIK, Turkey - U.S. warplanes flying from a base in southern Turkey attacked an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile emplacement in northern Iraq on Thursday, the U.S. Air Force said.

The incident came shortly after the base, at Incirlik, was put on a state of alert amid fear of a missile attack from Iraq. Allied sources in Ankara said a U.S. tracking station had picked op a possible launch from northern Iraq in the direction of the Turkish border. But the 'target" disappeared from screens, and

the alarm was canceled. A spokeswoman at Incirlik, a complex of red-brick buildings behind wire on the Anatolian plain, said two F-15 fighter-bombers on a routine patrol of the oo-flight zooe in oorthern Iraq had been targeted by anti-aircraft radar oorth of Mosul.

The U.S. aircraft responded with three precision-guided bornbs before returning to Incirlik.

'Damage to the Iraqi missile site is currently being assessed," she said.
American and British warplanes have enforced a no-flight zone north of the 36th parallel since the 1991 Gulf War to try to protect the Kurdish population from attack by President Saddam Hus-

sein's forces. The alert at Incirlik highlighted the growing tensions in the area this week after a series of similar strikes against Iraqi targets by U.S. planes.

Continued from Page 1

judging the potential profitability of one

European country or regioo against an-

fluctuations no longer affecting entre-

preneurs' risk calculations in relation to

the low-wage countries, and the assur-

ance that the euro zone's tight inflation

criteria will hold off dramatic increases

in these countries' pay levels, trade un-

ions in the high-wage countries of Ger-

many, the Netherlands and Belgium re-

gard the new situation as deeply

After years of low growth and high

unemployment sometimes linked to the

austerity measures that brought

Europe's currencies into convergence,

the contrasting labor costs now illustrate how the coming of the common cur-

rency may exact a new price in terms of

Union Confederation's research unit in

Brussels said: "There is a fear by the

trade unions that this competitive cli-

mate will lead entrepreneurs to undercut

ou wages. You can imagine a downward

spiral. There is a fear on the unions' side

that the competitive pressures will en-

courage companies and even govern-

ments to go from country to country to

see who can go furthest down on

wages."
For a time, Finance Minister Oskar

Lafontaine of Germany seemed to be on

the unions' wavelength and ready to

move in favor of their standpoint within

"It would be wrong if the economy of

a region or a state tried to create a

competitive advantage for itself by for-

"That's why salary policy has to be coordinated. The unions have to talk

Continued from Page 1

with Renault in 1993, while some of

Asia's struggling automakers are deep

in debt. Nissan's indebtedness stands at

"So far, no one has shown the ap-

petite to do the difficult deal," Mr.

David Foden of the European Trade

troubling.

people's lives

the EU. He said:

nearly \$38 billion.

Lawson said.

cing down its salary costs.

With concerns about exchange-rate

A statement by the Turkish general staff said there was an explosion northeast of Mosul at the time Incirlik was put on alert and that this may have been interpreted as a missile launch. It did not

say what had caused the hlast.
'Turkish air defense systems are ready to answer every kind of threat," the general staff's statement said. A statement by the U.S. European Command in Stottgart said troops at Incirlik, about 50 kilometers (30 miles)

from the Mediterranean Sea, had

donned protective gear. Gates were

closed and traffic was halted. ■ General Questions U.S. Policy

The general wbo commands U.S. forces in the Gulf area questioned Thursday the policy that has become the centerpiece of U.S. policy toward Iraq - support for opposition groups in hope of toppling Mr. Saddam — The Associated Press reported from Washington.

"I will be honest: I don't see an oppositioo groop that has the viability to overthrow Saddam at this point," General Anthony Zinni of the Marine Corps told the Senate Armed Services Com-

The policy of supporting opposition groups, "if not done properly, could be very dangerous," General Zinni said. He raised the prospect of dozens of splinter groups competing for power.

The last thing we need is another

EURO: Is Common Currency Putting Downward Pressure on Pay

and employers are represented."

among themselves and use the Euro-

pean institutions in which the unions

dealing with the reality that their coun-

try could be facing a loss in jobs even as

European competitiveness might be

benefiting in general from an overall

ecode, said he considered Germany and

Belgium to be facing problems because

He regarded France as being hurt to a lesser degree, Italy in a ocutral position

and Spain and Portugal as clear be-

As much as he welcomed Mr. La-

fontaine's view, Hans de Vries, national

negotiator for the metal and electrical

industry workers' union in the Neth-

erlands and an activist among labor

leaders pressing for a transnational ap-

proach in Europe, said the unions so far

had received "more sympathy than real

support" from their countries' left-of-

Mr. de Vries acknowledged that co-

ordinating across-border salary policy

would be extremely difficult and that

there were great impediments to it with-

in individual countries. But be said the

European Metalworkers' Federation

was pushing its members toward adopt-

ing minimum standards and that the

automotive and shipbuilding sectors

The chances of making headway are

would be among the first to be tar-

best in areas where there are common

patterns and practices, such as Germany

and the Benelux countries, Mr. de Vries

said. Short of transnational collective

bargaining, the unions are also pressing

for harmonization of tax policy across

But it will not be easy to get other

Miehel Didier, the director of Rex-

For politicians, the issue involves

rogue regime," he said.

labor-cost shakeout.

of their labor costs.

center politicians.



Looters breaking a shop window in Armenia, Colombia, days after the earthquake, whose toll reached nearly 900 and more than 3,400 injured.

KOSOVO: NATO Chief Gives a Warning

Continued from Page 1

its demands on Kosovo are met. 'Some ingredients still need cook-

ing, but it looks like we're getting there," a NATO official said about the emerging consensus — apparently in-cluding Russia — behind an approach largely inspired by the Clinton admin-

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who had threatened to boycott the Contact Group meeting unless it was prepared to meet minimal U.S. con-

unions on board on the central issue of

salaries, said Joachim Kreimer-de Fries,

who directs European wage policy for

the German Trade Union Federation.

He said he believed it would be difficult

to include Spain and Portugal, whose

unions he described as less eager to link

At the same time, there are indi-

cations of an increasing effort by low-

wage countries in the euro zone to at-

tract businesses from higher-wage

areas. Joao Alves Pereira, head of Por-

tugal's 25-person investment office in

Paris, described the competition from

talks about Portugal as if it were in-

teresting largely because of its work

ethic and new training programs. But

beyond his practiced diffidence, Mr.

Pereira reports success from France.

The investment office's bulletins

clearly state Portugal's wage advant-

ages, and Mr. Pereira becomes more direct when he is asked whether he is

concerned by union attempts to level

"You're talking about evolutionary change," he said. Referring to the

Maastricht treaty on European union, he

added: "The Maastricht rules are clear.

Inflation levels are limited. If you're

talking about relocating, it's worth it for 10 years or more."

Hourly labor costs — the figures that

were used for this article, from Eurostat,

include tax, pension and social security

payments - are obviously only part of

the calculation that goes into choosing sites for industrial facilities. Productiv-

ity, geographic advantage and political

erations have been accentuated, the un-

ions say, by the enro's leveling out of

foreign-exchange and interest-rate

mate also matter. But wage consid-

them ont.

Mr. Pereira flees the hard sell and

countries such as Ireland as great.

wages and productivity.

would attend the critical session.

The complex approach, balancing NATO pressure and the contact group's political plan, is designed to keep Russian opposition from blocking an allied consensus on using force if necessary, officials said.

Formally unveiling the drive for a Kosovo settlement, Mr. Solana read a statement Thursday at NATO headquarters saying: "The appropriate author-ities in Belgrade and representatives of the Kosovo Albanian feadership mnst agree to the proposals to be issued by the Contact Group for completing an in-terim political settlement within the time frame to be established."

Mr. Solana appeared to deliberately reserve the term "ultimatum" for the Contact Group, saying that it was expected to issue "a political ultimatum" about the peace talks.

In deference to European concern and Russian irritation - about an approach in which NATO seemed to manage international policy toward Serbia, the Clinton administration has been supple about letting the contact group produce the political bineprint for a Kosovo settlement.

Largely inspired by the United States. these plans for the end game in Kosovo seemed to echo the process over Bosnia three years ago, including Dayton-style negotiations at a forced pace, NATO military pressure to get the parties to the table and - still to be decided on - the use of ground troops from NATO nations including the United States to police an accord.

Washingtoo has "become much more forward-leaning" on a role for American troops, a Clinton administration official said, provided they were deployed in the context of a cease-fire and not sent into combat to separate the parties by force. The coercive role has only been envisaged for NATO air power, including U.S. cruise missiles.

Like the Clinton administration, Germany and other countries may prefer postponing a debate about the politically charged question of ground troops until the proximity talks begin or perhaps even until they end.

The autonomy package — leaving Belgrade only the management of international affairs for the province will dissatisfy both the Serbs who claim Kosovo and the Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas who want indepen-U.S. officials felt that they got im-

plicit support from an unexpected quarter Thursday when the UN sec-retary-general, Kofi Annan, acknowledged the difficulties of intervening in crises nominally within the jurisdiction of a sovereign state. In a speech at NATO headquarters,

Mr. Annan went on: "The international community should have no illusions about the need to use force when all other means have failed. We may be reaching that point once again in the former Yugoslavia."

■ New Fighting in Kosovo

Fighting broke out along Kosovo's

Yugoslav troops battled a large group of ethnic Albanian rebels caught trying to smuggle weapons from neighboring Albania, according to Serbian sources in Pristina, the provincial capital.

QUAKE: Looting Plagues Colombian City

Continued from Page 1

had never confronted a disaster of this 'We are talking about thousands and thousands of families," he said, adding that about 25,000 military food rations were being distributed to the

Ten people were injured in the looting and clashes with the police in Armenia, said Dr. Jorge Lopez, director of the city's San Juan de Dios hospital.

"We're hungry, and we can't get by hungry," said Freddy Guerrero, a carpenter who, like hundreds of others. emerged from Armenia's central supermarket carrying bags of rice, milk and beans. "I'm desperate." In some neighborhoods in Armenia

and oeighboring Calarca, residents banded together to confrout looters, including some convicts who escaped from prisons after the quake, said the national police chief, General Rosso Jose Serrano.

Looting also broke out in nearby Pereira, where people smashed open doors, windows and metal barriers to get at store shelves. Outside one market, they shouted at the police, fists in the air, ignoring warning shots. The police failed

to stop them with their hilly clubs.

The quake devastated much of Colombia's coffee belt. Reconstruction costs were expected to exceed \$100

million, said Interior Minister Nestor Humberto Martinez. Search and rescue teams from the

and Britain scrambled over and into dozens of collapsed buildings, looking for more victims, alive or dead. Sparks lit up the drizzly night in downtown Armenia as helmeted Jap-

United States, Mexico, Japan, France

anese rescuers cut through twisted steel girders with a chain saw. They hoped to find life below a 45meter-high (150-foot-high) pile of rubble

- the remains of a five-story building that buried as many as two dozen customers in a first-floor cafeteria. 'There is a tremendous lack of coordination. Everyone is working oo their own," said Raul Gonzalez, a Colomhian fire fighter who was searching a

collapsed hotel a block away. "There is no central command point, which is critical in this kind of emergency." At least three people were rescued: Wednesday, including a 65-year-old man and a 16-year-old boy taken from a

collapsed six-story apartment building. Dozens of survivors, many in tears, went before TV cameras to tell anyone they might know who was watching that they were safe but needed help. Amid the chaos, dazed children walked the streets, looking for their parents. Many people chose to leave Armenia, and cars choked the road leading to Cali.

FISCHER: Not Fazed by Berlin Ghosts

Continued from Page 1

long-held assumptions that Germany will bankroll the European Union because the country still has a moral debt to pay.

So, is he a loose cannon, this 50-year. old former member of the Revolutionary Struggle movement? It seems not. For all his evident convictions, Mr. Fischer appears to have found in the passage from protest to responsibility a school of pragmatism and balance.

Take Kosovo. Like most members of the Greens, a party with origins in the peace movement, Mr. Fischer has little taste for military force. Above all, he believes, a political strategy is needed to stop the fighting in the sonthern Serbian province. "We must bring the two sides to the table," he said. "We must start a political process. Air power is worth nothing if there is no political strategy.

But asked if he therefore opposed NATO air strikes, Mr. Fischer said: 'T am not a friend of using force, but sometimes it is a necessary means of last resort. So I am ready to use it if there is no other way. If people are being massacred, you cannot mutter about having no mandate. You must act."

However, as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization seeks to redefine itself, preparing a new post-Cold War doctrine to be unveiled at a 50th anniversary summit meeting in Washington in April, it is inevitable that "the global American superpower' and "more cautious" Europeans will have some differences, Mr. Fischer suggested.
"NATO has always had a regional structure," he said, "and I think it is not

without risk to open that structure and propel the organization toward broader purposes and a broader area.'

This warning was evidently meant to counter American proposals that NATO see itself now as an "alliance of interests," in some instances taking on far-flung missions against chemical and biological weapons, onclear proliferation or terrorism.

Mr. Fischer said that rather than being 'reactive," NATO should energetically seek means to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. His proposal that the alliance. renounce the first use of nuclear weapons remains on the table, he added. but will not be discussed before the Washington summit meeting.

American officials have not been amused by Mr. Fischer's suggestion that first use be renounced, and one said, on the condition of anonymity, that the foreign minister had failed to build trust.

Beyood the sparring, it appears clear that a oew German-American relationship is in the making, in which the country that the United States helped rebuild from postwar ruin will no longer automatically bow in grateful acqui-escence. Mr. Fischer is tentatively due in Washington and Canada aboot the first of March.

Turning to Europe, Mr. Fischer said the European nation-state was now shaped by forces beyond its control. With the introduction of a single currency, the euro, he added, an important part of sovereignty has been abandoned and it is inevitable that steps toward greater political integration will fol-

And will Berlin - with its granite Nazi buildings, its size, its gargantuan new construction projects and its memories — stir the nationalist in the German soul? The debate on this question is active.

and the decision to put ministries in old Nazi buildings — including the Reichsbank, where Hitler's bust once stood in the lobby - is still contested by some. But the alternative of entirely new construction would have been prohibitively

expensive.
Fears about Berlin will remain only that — fears," said Mr. Fischer, who appears to relish the quirks of history that soon will place him in a building completed in 1940. "We are passionate federalists in Germany, and the move will not change that.'

CHINA: 8 Die in an Unreported Bombing

Continued from Page 1

also been the site of recent worker and farmer protests over corruption, unpaid wages and taxes.
Used in mines and elsewhere, ex-

plosives are widely available in rural China. Accidental explosions and hlasts set in personal vendettas or robberies are not rare. There has been no public evidence that the recent explosions in Hunan or others reported around the country involved political motives.

On Jan. 17, a crude bomb exploded in a bus in the provincial capital of Changsha, seriously injuring four people, in-cluding one woman who lost both legs. Witnesses said a man who appeared to be a farmer put a lighted cigarette into a announced in that case. In early January in Daolin township,

taxes levied by corrupt local officials. On Jan. 8, as police dispersed the crowd with clubs and tear gas, one protester was killed when he was hit by a gas canister and bled to death, according to local witnesses and a human rights group in Hong Kong.

The acquisition of Volvo is the latest in a string of deals that have seen a number of top Swedish corporations pass into foreign hands or move abroad, such as the drugmakers Astra AB and Pharmacia AB and the paper company Stora AB. The deals have heightened fears that the country could be marginalized by

bolstered support for Swedish participation in the single European currency. Ford appeared determined to soothe

any political anxieties by promising to maintain the "Swedishness of Volvo," as Mr. Nasser put it. Just as Ford has maintained Jaguar as a distinctly British subsidiary, the company will operate Volvo as a separate business unit based in Gothenburg and keep its three Swedish production facilities as well as its research and development capabil-

Ford will concentrate initially on generating savings through common parts purchases, which some analysts have estimated could save \$150 million a globalization and as a result have year. Later on it intends to move toward current luxury brands.

VOLVO: Ford to Pay \$6.5 Billion to Bolster Its Presence in Europe common platforms, or chassis, for similar Ford and Volvo models.

Ford also was expected to try to extend Volvo's range to include minivans and sport-utility vehicles, which Mr. Nasser hinted at by saying that the Volvo brand "has quite a lot of flexibility and versatility." Ford sold about 200,000 Lincolns

and Jaguars last year, but with Volvo it could sell 1 million premium cars a year early in the next decade, Mr. Nasser said. Volvo also brings attractive demographics. Half of its American customers are women and three-quarters are under 55, a sharp contrast to the predominantly older, male buyers of its

southwestern border Thursday even as NATO reinforced its threat to use force to halt the year-old conflict, The Associated Press reported from Pristina.

bag and got off the bus before the bag goal for 1999.

exploded, according to Xinhua, the of-ficial news agency. No arrests have been

just outside Changsha, thousands of farmers held a series of protests against what they called excessive and arbitrary

With the economy slowing, unemployment rising and protests by unpaid workers or overtaxed farmers erupting frequently, China's leaders have said that social stability is their pre-eminent

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Top CEOs Are Upbeat On Business

Survey Finds Their Views Differ From Economists'

By Jonathan Gage

DAVOS, Switzerland - Putting behind them a year and a half of intense financial and economic turmoil, leading corporate executives around the world expressed remarkable optimism about business prospects in a survey made

public Thursday.

More than 80 percent of the 802 chief executives surveyed in 19 countries said they were upbeat about prospects for the

they were upbeat about prospects for the susiness growth in the coming three rears, the management firm PricewaterhouseCoopers reported.

The attitudes of the CEOs provided a sharp contrast with the views of many economists and other analysts who gathered Thursday for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in this Swiss Alpine village. Than Euroland this Swiss Alpine village.
"There will be a convulsion in the

world economy the likes of which we've

never seen before' warned Courtis, chief econ-ECONOMIC omist and strategist for Deutsche Bank Group in Tokyo. unless policymak-

ers manage to pull back from the current path of excess industrial capacity, high levels of debt and structurally slow growth. He preted sharp cuts in interest rates and taxes in both Europe and the United States to achieve that end,

Both Mr. Courtis and Rudiger Dorn-busch, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, warned of increasingly vicious trade tensions un-less growth and financial stability are

Mr. Dornbusch called Michel Camdessus, head of the International Monetary Fund, which has come under criticism for its response to the global financial crisis, "a monument to the failure of the worldwide economic stabilization effort. Every emerging market has become a casino, and he is the chief

James Schiro, chief executive of PricewaterhouseCoopers, called the buoyant results of the CEO survey "an attitude, not a guarantee" of future conporate behavior. He nonetheless said it was an encouraging sign for the global economy because the husiness leaders polled appeared unhesitant about con-

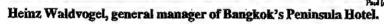
tinuing to invest. The survey was conducted between June and September, "when volatility in financial markets would have made cantion and pessimism understandable," the survey said. It polled chief executives of large corporations in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America.

Even in Asia, 71 percent of CEOs surveyed called themselves "optimis-

tic" about future husiness. The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum draws 2,000 participants to this ski resort, including the chief executives of many of the world's biggest companies, scores of government leaders and leading economists, for a flurry of brainstorming, negotiating and dealmaking.

Bile in Bangkok: Battle of the Luxury Hotels







Kurt Wachtveitl, who runs the Oriental Hotel in the Thai capital.

Low Sales and High Dudgeon in a Top-End Market

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribute

BANGKOK — Folding his luncheon napkin neatly on the table, Kurt Wachtveitl, the immaculately dressed German-born general manager of the Oriental Hotel here, stood up to peer across the Chao

Phraya River at a newly opened rival establishment.
"Oh, look," he said. "There are finally two
people in the Peninsula's pool. It must be the barman and a waiter."

So the white gloves are off in Bangkok's battle of the luxury hoteliers.

Barbed insults and allegations of nogentlemanly acts have been flying across this city's meandering brown river since late last year, when the Hong Kong-based Peninsula Group opened an opulent hotel on the opposite bank from establishments owned by two ritzy rivals: Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group International Ltd. and Shangri-La Hotels &

Each of the three impeccably mannered, European-trained hotel managers insists on fair play and friendliness, but stories quickly spill out of scuffles over staff, amenities and location. Whispers have even been heard of a luxury-hotel price war.

The fundamental problem is a glut of rooms. While Thailand's tourist arrivals have nearly doubled over the past decade to more than 7 million a year, overinvestment in real estate tripled the number of top-flight hotel rooms, to more than 20,000 in Bangkok, over the same period.

Growing competition for clients, Mr. Wachtveitl said, has kept the Oriental's discounted room rate — now \$200 a night — steady for eight years. The hotels preserve their aura of exclusivity by keeping poblished rates high while offering regular discounts that can cut room rates by more than 25 percent. Virtually no guest in Bangkok pays the full rate.

The Shangri-La's discount price is now \$180 a night, including amenities such as free airport transfers, while the Peninsula undercuts both at \$175 a

night.
"A price war is extremely dangerous when your made." said Richard Chaphotel relies on a luxury image," said Richard Chap-man, the soft-spoken Englishman who runs the Shangri-La. "The next 12 months will make a very interesting business-school study on the delicate balance between discount marketing and luxury im-

All three riverside hotels target affluent travelers, but their marketing tacties differ sharply.

The Oriental asserts an aristocratic heritage and plays up connections to famed writers who slept there, including Joseph Conrad and Barbara Cartland; the Peninsula promotes its sophisticated design and high-tech accontrements; while the Shangri-La, with more rooms than the other two put together, claims to combine luxury lodging with world-class conference facilities.

The stakes are high, but the competition -- and

rhetoric — occasionally verges on the vulgar.

"All the publicity I see about that new hotel is how the toilets have six telephones and a waterproof television set," Mr. Wachtveitl of the Oriental said over a three-course lunch at his formal Normandie Restaurant. "Personally I don't know how you would talk on them all, and this certainly is oot what my guests want to do."

The Peninsula's bathrooms actually have just three telephones, Heinz Waldvogel, the general manager, said. But he maintains that his hotel's technologypacked privies - which include an automatic mute on the television when calls come through to the bathtub --- show that the Oriental is out of step with modern times.

"Top deluxe hotels should offer every possible amenity that clients have at home," he said, shouting above live rock music in his hotel's aerodynamically

Mr. Wachtveitl countered that he had often stayed as a guest in his clients' homes. "They live in chateaux in Europe that are not cluttered with lights that turn on when you talk to them." he said. "They certainly do not want to feel like they are sleeping on a factory floor."

Location is extremely important in Bangkok, where the city's legendary traffic regularly slows movement on roads and bridges to a crawl — a distinct disadvantage to the Peninsula.

Sitting on the opposite side of the river from the central business district and from its two rivals, the Peninsula tries to minimize the impact of its location with a private ferry service of teak-festooned boats

See HOTELS, Page 12

For Yahoo!, **Another Big Brand Name**

Internet Search Service Plans to Buy GeoCities

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Yahoo! Inc. said
Thursday that it would buy GeoCities
Inc. for \$4.58 hillion in stock, securing
Yahoo!'s position among the dominant
Internet search and directory services.

The deal gives Yahoo! another
powerful brand name while helping
GeoCities reach more users of the

GeoCities reach more users of the World Wide Web. Moreover, the ad-dition of GeoCities' Internet traffic may make Yahoo! the No. 1 destination on the Weh, according to figures from Media Metrix Inc., a research firm.

"We anticipate maintaining GeoCit-ies as a stand-alone, very, very strong brand — there's a lot of brand equity in this company," said Tim Koogle, chief executive officer of Yahoo! The deal is

expected to close by June.
The 52 percent premium Yahoo! is paying for GeoCities underscores the stratospheric valuations of these small companies, most of which did not exist a

few years ago. GeoCities' sales of \$7.5 million resulted in a loss of \$8.4 million last year. Yahoo! earned \$18.5 million on sales of \$76.4 million in its latest quarter.

Saul Hansell of The New York Times reported earlier: Yahoo! is the top-rated of the Internet sites that have come to be known as portals because they serve as gateways to a wide range of information and online services. But most of its compet-

itors have recently been bolstered through acquisitions. At Home Corp. is starting to offer fast Internet services over cable television wires. Netscape Communications Corp., with its Netcenter portal, was bought by America Online Inc. Walt Disney Co. bought part of Infoseek Corp., another portal, and folded it into its oew portal, Go Network. Microsoft

mote its MSN portal.

This week, Compaq Computer Corp. announced plans to expand and partly spin off its Alta Vista portal service.

Corp. has redoubled its efforts to pro-

Paul Noglows of Hambrecht & Quist in San Francisco said of Yahoo!, "Geo-Cities woold oot only give them incremental traffic but also the most significant player in the community

GeoCities is the leading service that creates electronic communities of people who share various interests. It mainly allows people to set up their own home pages on the Internet on any topic from family photos to sports-car collecting. With more than 3 million members, it is among the most popular sites on the Internet.

In December, Geocities.com was the third-most-visited Web site, with 19 millioo unique visitors, according to Media Metrix. The top-rated site was America Online's site, aol.com, with 28 million visitors. Yahoo! was No. 2 with

GeoCities hopes to profit by selling advertising that appears on these home pages. But its revenue growth has been slower than other Internet companies because many advertisers are shy about placing their messages on pages that GeoCities does not have direct control

U.S. Steel Imports From Japan Fell in December

dropped sharply in Decem- producers and two steelworkber, the Commerce Department reported Thursday, which could ease the pressure on the government from and producers accuse those American producers seeking sanctions against Japan.

The department provided preliminary figures showing that Japanese producers had shipped 384,597 metric tons of steel products into the 2 U.S. government case, which United States, a 47 percent could lead to quotas or broad decrease from the total of tariffs on imports, that country still faces U.S. pressure on 728,478 tons in November.

U.S. trade representative, had promised a government-initiated trade complaint against figures showed o substantial

Cross Rates

countries of flooding the United States with hot-rolled carbon steel, the most common product, at prices lower

than the costs of making it. Even if Japan averts for now

Charlene Barshefsky, the trade in the months ahead. This week, President Bill Clinton's administration said it was reviving a controversial Japan unless the December tool of U.S. trade policy, the so-called Super 301 provision, which threatens coun-

angry responses from Japan Mark Vitner, an economist at and the European Union.

dispute settlement panel to clearly there — volumes are rule on Super 301, a spokes- up so much in '98." man for Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, said Thursday. The EU considers the provision incompatible with WTO regulations.

The sharp decrease in Jap-anese steel imports — as well as a parallel drop in imports from Russia in December appears to reflect the prospect for additional tariffs

threatened in a November ruling by the U.S. Commerce De-

Other Dollar Values

Complete to Our Stell Frame Desporters

The issue of steel imports tries perceived as erecting barwas a pullback in December; continue "into January and VASHINGTON — U.S. has become politically sentiers to U.S. goods with stiff that's when the political heat beyond" and said it "should steel imports from Japan sitive, with American steel sanctions. That move drew was really turned tro." early the said it "should steel imports from Japan sitive, with American steel sanctions. That move drew was really turned tro." early the said it "should steel imports from Japan sitive, with American steel sanctions. That move drew was really turned tro." early the said it "should steel imports from Japan sitive, with American steel sanctions. First Union Capital Manage-The EU has called for a ment in Charlotte, North Car-World Trade Organization olina. "The general theme is

> For the year through November, Japanese imports climbed to 5.7 million metric tons, nearly three times the 2.1 million metric tons in the ary data, beginning with the same period in 1997. Japan is the largest U.S. source of steel imports, which have driven down prices and contributed to more than 10,000 layoffs in the country's industry.

Shinya Okuda, director of the steel division at the Minpartment. A final ruling is not istry of International Trade trade representatives are enexpected until this summer. and Industry, said he expec-'It's not surprising there ted the "declining trend" to

All told, U.S. steel imports in December were at 2.5 million metric tons, a 31 percent decrease from 3.6 million tons in November. Final figures for December

are due in about three weeks. Mr. Clinton's administration decided to release prelimin-December figures, to give the domestic industry an earlier warning of import trends. Officials expect the preliminary figures to equal about 96 per-cent of the final numbers.

Meanwhile, in a continuing standoff with the EU, U.S. gaged in talks at the WTO on a dispute over banana imports into Europe that threatens to turn into a trans-Atlantic trade war. Washington is threatening unilateral sanctions if the import regime is not changed, but Brussels argues that the WTO has not ruled that changes made to its trade systern do oot comply with trade rules and accuses the United States of bullying tactics.

The WTO dispute settlement body adopted an agenda Thursday to examine the dispute, paying the way for U.S. officials to ask permission to impose threatened sanctions on a range of EU imports. The United States says the EU banana policy unfairly favors producers in former European colonies in the Caribbean at the expense of largely U.S.owned producers in Latin

(AP, AFP, Bloomberg)



STMicroelectronics 1998 CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

STMicroelectronics reports fourth quarter earnings per diluted share of USD 0.84 on net revenues of USD 1,132.7 million.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (Extracts)

In millions of US dollars (except per share data)	Financial : 31/12/98	ear ended 31/12/97	
Net revenues	4,247.8	4,019.2	
Gross profit	1,624.8	1,561.8	
Total operating expenses	(1,101.4)	(1,042.0)	
Operating income	523.4	519.8	
Net interest expenses	8.7	(2.6)	
Income before income taxes and minority interests	532 ₋ 1	517.2	
Income tax expense	(120.4)	(113.0)	
Net income before minority interests	411.7	404.2	
Minority interests	(0.6)	2.4	
Net income	411.1	406.6	
Earnings per share	USD 2.92	USD 2.92	
Earnings per share (diluted)	USD 2.89	USD 2.91	

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (Extracts)

In millions of US dollars	31/12/98	31/12/97
Total assets	6,434.0	5,445.7
Shareholders' equity	4,083.3	3,307.4

The full text of the fourth quarter and 1998 annual results' press release is available for the public at the office of Crédit Agricole Indosuez. Secrétariat Financier - Actions - 92920 Paris La Défense Cedex, FRANCE.

Sources: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsablahi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Torox France (euro); IMF (SDR) Other data from Resilers.

Euro Values



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pensing fund's looming shortfall was

critical," the central banker testified

major step in the right direction."

risk the efficiency of our capital

markets and thus our economy,"

Mr. Greenspan said.

to increase taxes or cut benefits.

Investor's America 30-Year T-Bond Yield Dollar in Yen Exchange 9200.28 +0.58 1243.17 +1.78 U.S. SAP 500 621.36 +1.75 F32 23... Ū.S. S&P 100 NYSE Composite 595.40 588.08 U.S. Nasdeq Composite 2477.38 2407.17 .. 42.92 U.S. AMEX Composite 713.93 707.19 10.95 U.S. 6668.50 6652.30 +0.24 TSE Index: Toronto 7987.13 7687.14 +3.90 São Paulo 3815.35 .44.65 Mexico City Bolsa 367,58 366.47 -0.24 Buenos Aires Mervai : 3546.62 3627.81 +0.53 IPSA General -0:32 4082.60 4095.78 Capital General

Very briefly:

 Brazil's high interest rates and a sharp economic downturn pushed the unemployment rate up two percentage points last year, 10 7.6 percent, according to the government-run IBGE statistics institute.

· Baxter International Inc., the world's second-higgest maker of medical devices and supplies, said fourth-quarter net earnings rose 16 percent, to \$212 million, on increased sales of products to treat blood and kidney problems.

• BB&T Corp., the fourth-largest bank in North Carolina, agreed to buy Masoq-Dixon Bancshares Inc., of Maryland, for \$256.9 million in stock.

• Adelphia Communications Corp., the seventh-largest 'These oumbers confirm the U.S. cable operator, is to buy FPL Group Iqc.'s stake in Strength of the economy, and with Said Ted Theodore, director of re-Olympus Communications LP for \$257.2 million, giving the ECB expected to cut rates, that's search at Avatar Associates, "and Adelphia control of the Florida cable operatur.

• Eli Lilly & Co., the maker of Prozac, the world's bestselling anti-depressant, said fourth-quarter profit rose 24 percent, to \$567.3 million from \$457.5 milling a year earlier, as sales rose 17 percent, to \$2,64 billion. Prozac sales rose 8 percent, to \$744.5 million.

• Dow Chemical Co.'s fourth-quarter earnings fell to \$447 million before charges from \$479 million a year before amid pricing pressures on its chemical businesses.

 Lockheed Martin Corp., the second-biggest aerospace company, said fourth-quarter profit fell 15 percent, to \$308 million, as the company suffered from delayed commercial space launchings and military-aircraft deliveries.

· Pitney Bowes Inc., the largest maker of postage meters, said fourth-quarter profit climbed 16 percent, to \$1624 million, meeting estimates, led by increased sales of office equipment and digital meters.

• Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp., the sixth-largest U.S. nil refiner, is to cut 300 jobs as its fourth-quarter earnings fell 93 percent, to \$2.6 million, because of slimmer refining Bloomberg, Reuters

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Dollar Hits Greenspan Renews Attack on Social Security Plan "In all likelihood, these taxes will WASHINGTON — The chair- rect and indirect — to allocate cap- bave to be raised or benefits cut.

A High as Alan Greenspan, repeated Thursday **Euro Slips** his criticism of President Bill Clin-

NEW YORK - The dollar hit its highest rate so far against the euro as it also rose Thursday against most other major currencies on expectations that the U.S. economy would dominate those in Europe and Japan again this year.

"People are having a change of heart in the dollar," said Dan Scherman of MFS Asset Management in Boston. Markets had been

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

touting the "demise" of the dollar, he said, but "U.S. numbers have done oothing but diminish that thought. The economy isn't running

In 4 P.M. trading, the euro was at \$1.1416, its lowest value since the single European currency was introduced at the start of this year, down from \$1.1438 on Wednesday.

The dollar rose to 116.350 yen, also a high for the year, from 115.775 yen. New U.S. data indicating strong orders for durable goods and growth in wages reinforced investors' confidence that the economy is not losing steam, which makes any cut in interest rates less likely. The European Central Bank, by contrast, is expected to cut rates, analysts said, to prevent recovery in the euro zone from fizzling.

senior trader at Banco Atlantico. a record 2,477.34. going to widen interest-rate differntials" in the dollar's favor.

Investors bought the dollar ahead of the report due Friday on fourth-quarter U.S. gross domestic product. motive operations of Volvo for Economists have estimated that growth accelerated to an annual rate of 4.5 percent from the 3.7 percent rate in the third quarter. "I'm a longterm bull on the dollar," said Tony Norris, a director at First International Advisors Ltd. in London. "The strongest economy is the U.S."

The dollar also gained after the first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Stanley Fischer, said the Fund was working "intensively" with Brazil to help stabilize the economy of the largest Latin American economy.

The dollar rose to 1.4117 Swiss francs from 1,4098 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6493 from \$1.6460.

Thursday, Jan. 28

funds from political pressure -- diman of the Federal Reserve Board, ital to less than its most productive given that the system as a whole is nse," he said still significantly Mr. Greenspan noted that studies Mr. Greenspan said.

ton's proposal for investing Social had shown that state and local pen-Security funds in the stock market, sion funds that invested in stocks had saying the permanent solution to the lower average rates of return than private investments. "Similarly, there is evidence that suggests that, the greater the proportion of trustees Increasing our national saving is who are political appointees, the before the Senate Budget Commitlower the rate of return." he said.

tee, and transferring budget surpluses to the Social Security trust fund "is a Mr. Greenspan did not address the current state of the U.S. economy or monetary policy in his testi-But investing any of that money On the politically sensitive issue in stocks "would arguably put at

of benefit cuts or tax increases, Mr. Greenspan said the demographics of having a huge baby-boom gener-'Even with Herculean efforts, I abon retiring and fewer workers left doubt if it would be feasible to in- to support retirees had presented sulate, over the long run, the trust policymakers with few choices.

still significantly underfunded,

Joe Lockhart, the White House press secretary, agreed on that point. We could not agree with him more on the fact that we need to dn more," be said. "The president has made clear that he needs to work with Congress in order to reform. In addition to reserving the surplus and paying down the debt, we need to do more to reform the system."

Another problem is that cur-rently, Social Security tax revenue is invested in Treasury securities, and under the federal government's unified budget, that money helps pay for daily government operations. Moving a portion of that revenue into stocks would mean the government would have to sell them to

private buyers, which implies the government would have to pay higher interest rates, he suggested. In his State of the Union message last week, Mr. Clinton urged re-

serving about 60 percent of the government's projected budget surpluses over the next 15 years, an estimated \$4.4 trillion, for shoring up the retirement benefits system.
But the Fed chairman also que tioned the wisdom of relying on projections that future surpluses

would actually exist. "While a sharp rise in the number of retirees in about 10 years seems almost a certainty, the financial and economic state of the American economy in the early years of the 21st century is not," Mr. Greenspan said. "We cannut confidently project large surpluses in nur unified budget over the next 15 years."
(AP, Bloomberg)

Stocks Rise on Strong Growth Data

NEW YORK - Stock prices rose Thursday as investors welcomed high-profile takeovers, new signs of strong economic growth and a slew of positive earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished 81.10 points higher at 9,281.33. Advancing issues led decliners by an 8-to-7 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was up 22.20 points at 1,265.37.

"This is a good time to be bnying dollars," said Fernando Medina, a composite index rose 70.20 points to

you have this added feature of a very good earnings picture.

\$6.45 billion But TRW Inc. slipped 1/2 to 501/4 after Lucas Varity accepted its bid

for the British auto-parts company. The Internet search service Yahoo! rose 31% to 367% after it annonnced it was buying GeoCities. GeoCities shares soared 4214 to

'People are still aggressive buyers of technology stocks," said Robert Streed of Northern Trust. The growth is clear, and the earnings are coming through." Among other Internet-related

stocks, America Online was up 9 at rose 1.9 percent in December, the vider reported that its second- mand for industrial hardware, elec- for-1 stock split. (AP, Bloomberg) southeastern United States.

quarter earnings nearly quadrupled, tronics and electrical equipment acto \$88 million.

"I love AOL," said Andrea Williams of Volpe Brown Whelan & Co. "They're so dominant They're almost untouchable."

Bet the company suffered a set-back Thursday when the Federal Communications Commission re-

U.S. STOCKS

fused to force cable-TV companies to sell their new high-speed Internet hook-ups to competing Internet companies.

While investors have flocked to Internet stocks, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, orged caution. In an appearance before the Senate Budget Committee, the central banker said Ford shares rose 21/2 to 62 7/16 prices of such shares were going up under a "lottery principle

"The size of that potential market is so huge that you have these pie-inthe-sky type of potentials for a lot of different vehicles," Mr. Greenspan said, adding, "Undnobtedly, some of these small companies whose stock prices are going through the roof will succeed. And they very The vast majority are almost sure to

Investors took heart from twn economic reports shawing strong growth but no immediate signs of overheating.

Factory orders for durable goods

celerated. For all of last year, orders rose 3.5 percent after increasing 7.1 percent during 1997, the Commerce Department said, the smallest annual gain since 1991, when the economy was emerging from re-

cession. "The worst for our exporters is said a former Federal Reover." serve governor, Lyle Gramley, adding, "Manufacturing productiv-

ity continues to be very robust." The Labor Department reported that Americans' wages and benefits rose last year by 3.4 percent, the fastest rate in five years and a slight improvement over 1997, But wages and benefits did cool in the fourth quarter, good news for investors who are worried that wage pressures could prove inflationary and prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest

The data spurred bonds, with the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond falling to 5.10 percent from 5.13 percent on Wed-

other stocks. Eli Lilly sbares gained 1 7/16 at well may justify even higher prices. 91 3/16 after the drugmaker annonced strong earnings and author- should help TCI provide the ad-

ized a \$1 billion stock-repurchase BankAmerica rose 214 to 641/8 after the chairman of the largest U.S. bank predicted that net income

would rise 25 percent this year.

Charter Gains Cable Systems In Southeast

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee Charter Communications Inc., one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States, is on the move again.
The company, owned by Paul Al-len, a co-founder of Microsoft Corp., will gain cable systems serving about 260,000 customers in a complicated \$2.4 billion deal with Nashvillebased InterMedia Partners and Tele-

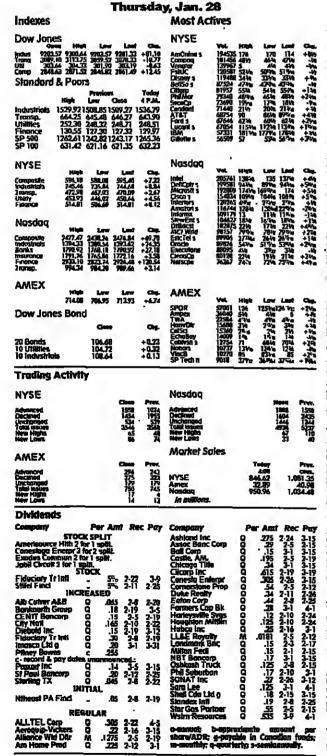
Communications Inc. TCI and Charter will acquire sys-tems that InterMedia Partners now uses to serve about 700,000 customers in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee

TCI, which is being acquired by. AT&T Corp., will give up its 4 percent stake in InterMedia in exchange for InterMedia's 300,000 customers in the Nashville area and Charter's systems in several Indiana communities, as well as systems in Strong earnings reports drove Shelbyville, Kentucky, Logan, Utah and Militown, Montana:

TCI's president, Leo Hindery, said InterMedia's rebuilt cable systems vanced services that will be affered after the merger with AT&T.

Charter will pay InterMedia an unspecified amount of cash and will give it systems serving 140,000 cus-Intel shares rose 47/16 to 1373/16 and Montana, Charter will take over 1741/2 after the on-line service pro- sixth rise in seven months, as de- after the chipmaker announced a 2-, about 400,000 customers in the

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES



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every Wednesday

HOTELS: Battle in Bangkok Continued from Page 11

manned by white-uniformed sailors. But the Peninsula's pier no the far side, wedged between its tention.

Shortly after the Peninsula secured the pier across the river, Shortly after the Peninsula secured the pier across the river, the hotel's resident manager, Peter Schori, said, Mr. Chapman of the Shangri-La telephoned to warn that the Peninsula's pier access could be restricted because the Shangri-La had constructed the road's entrance.

"We were very worried," Mr. Schori said, that the Peninsula would not be able to use the pier, "until our lawyers determined the road was now a public right-of-way."

Mr. Chapman also led a team from the Shangri-La offering compensation to River Garden Apartment, the owner of the pier, fire breaking the Peninsula's newly signed lease, according to Aree Tangtrongchitr, manager and owner of River Garden Apartment and the pier.

Garden Apartment and the pier. Mr. Chapman, however, said he learned of the Peninsula's

plans only while trying to rent the pier's commercial space; which sits opposite his hotel's main entrance. He said he did not recall the phone conversation with Mr. Schori. On the issue of neighborly cooperation, Mr. Waldvogel of the Peninsula complained that Mr. Wacbtveitl had regularly

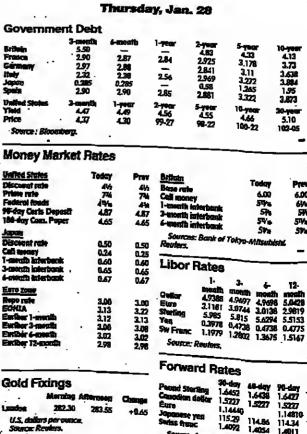
turned his nose up at mutually beneficial marketing ven-"He rejected a shared boat service, a dine-around option for guests and even refuses landing rights for my boats to drop off his own guests after they eat dinner here." Mr. Waldvogel

"We have the same class of client. He is very short-

Mr. Wachtveitl replied that after three decades of running the Oriental for the elite, he would not permit a waterborne invasion of the hoi polloi.

Mr. Waldvogel, he sniffed, is "simply frustrated at being on the wrong side of the river."

INTEREST RATES



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STOCK MARK

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EUROPE

TRW Prevails in the Bidding for Lucas Varity

CLEVELAND -- TRW Inc. outbid another American company Thursday to acquire the lop British auto-parts maker, LucasVarity PLC. in an all-cash \$6.6 billion deal, the companies announced Thurs-

Federal-Mogul Corp. opened the dding war for Lucas Varity by offering 280 pence (\$4.60) a share in cash and stock Monday, a 36 percent premium over the closing share

TRW said its offer of 288 pence a share represented the largest cash deal yet in the auto-parts industry. Lucas Varity closed Thursday at 290 pence, up 6.

Federal-Mogul said it would study the bid before deciding wheth-

er to raise its offer. The TRW deal, which was accepted by the boards of Varity to pay TRW a \$49.8 million fee if it breaks the accord.

Lucas Varity is the second-largest maker of brakes, after Robert Bosch GmbH of Germany. Clevelandbased TRW is the top American maker of vehicle-passenger airbags.
TRW said the deal would lead to savings of \$200 million annually within two years. The combined

company would have annual revenue of nearly \$19 billion. TRW wants to strengthen its auto husiness, which provides 60 percent of its revenoe, analysts say, before selling or spinning it off to better focus oo its faster-growing space, defense and technology unit.

said Jacques-Antoine Bretteil of International Capital Gestion in Paris. "Car-parts soppliers must join up even more rapidly than the carmakers." The auto-parts industry is consolidating as companies try to expand internationally and supply entire parts systems rather than individual parts.

Carmakers are consolidating globally, forcing suppliers of componeous to do the same.

In addition to Daimler-Benz AG's takeover of Chrysler Corp. last year, Ford Motor Co. agreed

Andrew Casey of Midwest Re- Thursday to hoy Volvo AB's car search Inc. said, "This acquisition unit. Victor Rice, chief executive both companies, calls for Lucas- should be very beneficial to TRW officer of Lucas Varity, is to be on both an earnings basis and as a named vice chairman of TRW and catalyst for automotive growth." . to direct the combined automotive The offer is "very favorable," operations of the company.

He said, "The benefits of the two companies' complementary products and services are reflected in the full and fair price we have received for LucasVarity." Joseph Gorman, TRW's chair-

man and chief executive officer, called the deal "a great fit."
"Specifically," he said, "it enables the integration of TRW's steering and suspension husiness with Lucas Varity's braking business into the next generation of ve-

world's largest futures exchange, voted 450 to 390 late Wednesday to

Swiss futures exchange. The system would have enabled traders to view

information on CBOT's Treasury

contracts and Eurex futures on a

accord or merger with a rival such as the Londoo International Financial

Futures and Options Exchange, the

Chicago Mercanule Exchange or

the Matif futures exchange of

Eurex may have to consider an

single screen.

hicle control systems (AP, Bloomberg)

Alcatel Net Rises, but Stock Falls

PARIS - Alcatel SA reported Thursday that its net income last year rose to 2.3 billion euros (\$2.6 billion) from 700 million euros in 1997, but most of the increase was the result of asset sales, and shares of the French telecommunications equipment maker fell 3.5 percent.

Operating income rose 10.2 per-cent, to 1 billioo euros, well below analysts' predictions of at least 2.4 hillion euros and less than the target

set by the company a year ago.

Sales increased 6 percent, to 21.3 billion euros, with 53 percent of revenue coming from North America and only 7 percent from Europe.
Alcatel's shares floished at 98.50

euros, dowo 3.60. The company's chief executive, Serge Tchuruk, projected growth in reject developing an electronic trad-ing platform with Eurex, a Germansales and operating income in 1999

despite the uncertain global economic outlook, particularly for Asia and Latin America. But Bernard Lechat, chief analyst at the Wargny brokerage, said the

company was "in the middle of

oowhere, businesswise. ■ Rhone-Poulenc Posts Profit

The French pharmaceurical concern Rhone-Poulenc SA announced a return to profit for 1998, Reuters Eurex, the largest derivatives ex- France to satisfy its goal of making reported. The company also forecast the Frankfurt-hased exchange the annual earnings growth of 15 percent over the oext three years.

Net income was 4.22 billion francs (\$737 million) last year, rein 1997. Operating profit rose 24 perceot, to 11.42 billion francs.

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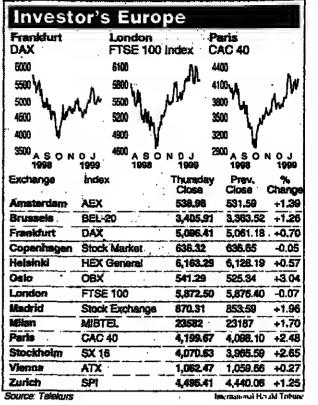
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Keppel Corp.
OCBC loreign
OS Union Bk F
SembCorp Ind.
Sing Air foreign
Sing Land
Sing Press.
Sing Tech Eng

Stockholm

Taipei



Very briefly:

 German car productioo rose to 409,343 units io December. up 27 percent from a year earlier, as the country's carmakers benefiled from strong overseas sales and demand for new models at home.

 The Netherlands' gross domestic product expanded 0.4 percent in the third quarter from the second and 3.2 percent from a year earlier as consumer spending offset a slowing of

 Poland will invite bids for a 49 percent stake in Polskie Lioie Lotnicze LOT SA, the state-owned airline, by the middle of the year after delaying the planned sale over the past three years amid concerns about an adviser's fee.

. The Czech National Bank cut its key interest rate by threequarters of a percentage point, in line with expectations, to 8 percent. It was the ninth cut in seven months as the government has tried to help the struggling economy. Bloomberg

Cheap Phones Paris and Zurich Bourses Forge Link **Hurt Ericsson**

Compiled by Our Stuff From Disputch

STOCKHOLM - Encsson AB reported Thursday that fourthquarter net profit fell 3 percent on lower prices for its mobile phones.

The company, the third-largest maker of cell phones, said it earned 4.75 hillion kronor (\$616.1 million), compared with 4.88 hillion kronor a year earlier. Revenue from its mobile phones and terminals division fell 3 percent in the quarter as phone prices Brussels; and Paris-Zurich. Borsa fell 30 percent. But the company said. it had kept its share of the expanding volved that is not yet in an alliance. cellular-phone market by increasing sales volume about 50 percent.

Ericsson's result for the first half 1999 is expected to be lower than in the first half 1998," the chief executive, Sven-Christer Nilsson,

The Associated Press Theodore, said medium-sized PARIS — The Paris and Zurich companies should have access to the stock exchanges unveiled a cross-membership alliance Thursday that seemed aimed at giving the Paris bourse. Bourse more leverage in talks with seven other European exchanges over what a European bourse should

look like. Seven of the eight exchanges involved in pan-European bourse talks are now aligned to three blocs: London-Frankfurt-Madrid; Amsterdam-Italiana is the only exchange in-

Paris began seeking a partner after Loodon's stock exchange and Deutsche Boerse in Frankfurt annouoced plans for a common trading platform last July.

Presenting the deal, the president (Bloomberg, Reuters) of the Paris Bourse, Jean-Francois

Kuala Lumpur

FT-SE 300; 5872,50 Previous; 5876,40

grant access only to blue-chip companies. Uoder the new agreement, members of the Swiss Exchange are to

electronic platform that would serve

as the foundation of a pan-European

Frankfurt and Loodon want to

become members of the Paris Bourse, and vice versa, by the end of the first quarter. ■ Eurex Loses a Suitor

change in Europe, may be forced to seek a new partner after the Chicago Board of Trade voted to scrap a proposed alliance, Bloomberg ing clients of the exchange. Members of the CBOT, the

world's largest marketplace for trading derivatives. Joerg Franke, chief executive of News reported from London, quot- Eurex, said that it had oo firm plans versing a loss of 4.99 hillion francs to merge or form links with any

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, Jan. 28 In euros for EAAU countries

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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999 NASDAO 12 Horses Stock DA AN LE ME HOW THE COME COME Dir Yiq PE 10th High High Law Dack まる! Strick by his state of the stat 是我们的人,这种种种种的是一个种的人,但是一种的人,也是一个是一种,我们也是一种的人,也是一种人,他们也是一个人,也是一个人,也是一个人,也是一个人,也是一个人, Section 1 Annual Property of the Control of the Con erka-zeokoa eskauden errutzukoanuraka onko. Ungerada seokoa arrezukaraka ku uzaka darezukaraka darezukaraka da En darezoa en darezukaraka en darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka da Enekerakaraka en darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka darezukaraka da AND LAND AND THE SECOND PROPERTY OF A STATEST AND PROPERTY AND SECOND PROPERTY AND SEC 以下了有事的为了的的数据的"安全的"的表现,是原始的的多数有效的"安全"的"这是的数据的一个,但是对于他的有效的的全部的是一种是 37e 3 A BACK COURSE MAN AND THE COURSE CONTROL OF THE COURSE COU 而是对话的最后的对象结合的主义人。这些特殊是可以完全的是一种和_的一个专家,或者们们的人的,也也可以将有一种任务。对于,所有的人的 ubling, but, danisheri karbakerda (1 ark laba di 10 arbe), karbinarariba rea rearbande karibakerde keribangan Beryagegibegibergi berbagergi berbagergi berbagergi berbagergi berbager berbagergi berbagergi berbagera Beryagegibegibergi berbagergi berbagergi berbagergi berbagergi berbager berbager berbagergi berbager berbager be LEGERAL SELECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE Smillateninger-tiefereistelleistelleistelleistelleineten et else District of the second of the e...inedokena byganoni am bisebeb tunitan banka per Prografikatibebahilikatikatibebahan Byganosatibebahilikatikatibebahan 有多数性的有效性的,可以不是一种的一种,一种的一种,但是是一种的一种,但是一种的一种, # **AMEX** M 17 Thursday's 4 P.M. Close The 150 most traded stocks of the day, HEARTH PRINCE THE PRINCE THE PRINCE OF THE P TENTENT AND AND THE COMMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF 計 計 up to the closing on Wall Street. Serie Britania E production THE REAL PROPERTY AND THE PARTY NAMED IN AND WALL BARRESS OF THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE P MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE OF THE A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR 「病毒・一方の一品を考しなって直角が高さればさせただ ELEGE-RATHERSH-STEELS-REES låndetilkangstenklastantate Karåbertingstenklastingste * 直見を行うれる はなどなるとればれるのはなる MARK TO SECRETARY STREET ACCES TO SEE STATE OF THE PARTY **建设汽车中日间间的地位的公司加州的地位的公司的** 「日本の大学の日本の一日の一日本の日本の日本の 一年 海中有地域图 11 海南中南北平有作 1 THE STREET STREET STREET Tubbles
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Very briefly:

finance its fleet.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Investor's Asia Tokyo Nidei 225 Singapore Straits Times Hong Kong Hang Seng 17000 11000 16000\ 1400 10000 15000 1250 9000 14000 8000 7000 V V 13000 12000 A S ON D J 1998 1999 6000 Prev. Exchange Close Close Change 9,360.96 9,713.86 -3.69 Hang Sano Hong Kong 1,426,02 1,457,44 -2.16 Strats Times 2,877.20 2,851.40 +0.90 Ali Ordinaries Sydney 14.342.32 14.450/86 0.75 Nikkei 225 Tokyo 595.45 605.18 -1.61 Kunia Lumpur Composite 366.16 373.25 --- 1.90 SET. Bangkok Composite Index 571.47 565.20 41.1 Seout Stock Market Index 6,063,41 6,138,87 -1.23 Tuipei 1.998.81 1.994.00 40.24 Manila 4.07.271 410.25 4.0.73 Jakarta. 2,162.12 -2,165.58 -0.16 NZSE-40 Wallingtoo 3,292.95 3,353.98 -1.82 Sensitive Index ... Bombay

· Central Investment Holding Co., a business arm of Tai-

M Philippioe Airlines Inc., trying to prevent the confiscation of its aircraft, plans to pay \$38 million to creditors who helped

Japaoese auto production fell 8.4 percent in December from

a year earlier, closing the industry's worst year in decades as

domestic sales plummeted and exports within Asia plunged.

* Toshiba Corp. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. will join

forces to my to cope with global competition in developing and

· Hong Koog's deficit in visible trade, which excludes in-

tangibles such as services, narrowed in 1998 to 81.44 billioo

dollars (\$10.51 billion) from 159.14 billioo dollars in 1997.

· Singapore's industrial output posted its first rise in eight

months in December, gaining 2.7 perceot over the previous

year, as a surge in chemical production offset a drop in

Bloomberg. Reuters, AFP

producing large-capacity motors for industrial use.

weakest banks under de facto government control.

World Travel and Tourism Council showed.

Kim Vows to End All Investment Red Tape

By Don Kirk International Herald Tribun

SEOUL - President Kim Dae Jung, hoping to persuade foreign companies to invest \$15 billion in South Korea this year, promised Thursday to cut all regulations hindering foreign investment by the end of the year.

Mr. Kim made the pledge before several hundred foreign business people, diplomats and journalists at a luncheon celebrating what he and his aides clearly viewed as South Korea's triumph over the worst of the economic crisis that almost bankrupted the country in late 1997.

Since his inauguration as president last February, he said, he had

"11,000 regulations" that made life difficult for foreign companies operating in South Korea.

"This year we will make sure the regulations are all abolished," he

Mr. Kim's remarks — and the atmosphere of the lavish luncheon in the Bloe House, the center of presidential power here — underlined the shift in outlook toward foreign interests that be has sought to bring about during his presidency.

"Koreans in the past have had a very oegative attitude toward for- fidence while the country coped eign investment," Mr. Kim said.
"That is because we are a homogenous nation."

He maintained, however, that his

cut by half what he said were government had managed "to convince Korean people" of the need to view foreign business positively. Foreign direct investment rose 27 percent in 1998, to \$8.85 billion.

"The dominant part of the Korean people welcome foreign investment," Mr. Kim said. "Please come in. We want to make an environment most favorable to foreign capital."

Mr. Kim held luncheon amid in- profit." creasing signs here that the economy has rebounded. Some of the business people at the luncheon warned, however, of the danger of overconwith rising unemployment and the nearly 2,000 to the dollar 13 months reluctance of the country's massive ago but has been gaining value ever conglomerates, or chaebol, to resince; it traded Thursday in New Kim Dae Jung, who tells foreign structure or downsize significantly. York at 1,175.70 to the dollar.

"We have the risk of declaring success prematurely," said James Rooney, president of Ssangyong Templeton Investment Manage-ment Co. "Korea's credibility rests oo recognizing the huge restructuring task that lies ahead.

At the same time, Mr. Rooney said, "There's no clear focus on delivering growth or shareholder

The greatest single concern, Mr. Rooney said, is that "we will lose competitiveness by premature strengthening" of the won. The South Korean currency sank to



investors, "Please come in."

Fuji Bank to Absorb Ailing Yasuda Trust

TOKYO - Fuji Bank Ltd. said Thursday that it would turn Yasuda Trust & Banking Co. into a subsidiary by buying 300 billion yen (\$2.59 bil-lioo) of Yasuda's common and preferred shares.

The purchase, which will take place at the end of March, will raise Fuji wan's governing Nationalist Party, led a group of companies that bought a 22.5 percent stake in Pao Asia Baok for 2.65 billioo Taiwan dollars (\$82 millioo), bringing one of Taiwan's Bank's stake in Yasuda Trust to more than 50 percent from 16.8 percent.

When the two banks are combined, they will be Japan's second-largest banking concern, with 62.579 trillion yen in assets and 365 branches.

** Southeast Asia's tourism industry has cut 2 million workers as recession in the region has hurt travel, figures from the The long-anticipated move comes as major trust banks are cutting costs and revamping businesses under government pressure to improve profits in re-

turn for public aid. The two banks said the takeover would reduce costs and bolster annual profit by an estimated 30 billion yeo starting in four years. The banks will share computer centers, software development costs and other back-office

expenses, they said. Yasuda, which is heavily burdened by nonperforming loans, is a member of the Fuyo corporate group.

"Fuji Bank is the core bank of the Foyo group," said Nozomu Kunishige of Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, "and in

order to maintain the group and the bank's credibility. Fuji Bank is not allowed to let troubled Yasuda Trust go oankrupt.''

Mr. Kunishige said Yasuda had bowed to the inevitable takeover after the Financial Reconstruction Commission, a new bank reform authority. warned that banks that had not restructured their operations would be closed.

'It is good for Yasuda Trust,' said Katsubito Sasajima of Warburg Dillon Read, "as it means Fuji will take care of it from now on However, I doubt whether this is good for Fuji.

After Fuji Bank's announcement, Moody's Investors Service Inc. said it may raise Yasuda's credit rating, oow at

With the extra capital from Fuji Bank, Yasuda Trust said it would no longer need to apply for government funds in the year that ends in March. Yasuda Trust, along with 14 other major Japanese lenders, said last year that it would ask for money from a 25 trillioo yen bank bailout fund to replenish capital after writing off bad loans.

Fuji Bank and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. said in November that they would merge their trust banking subsidiaries April 1. The two banks also agreed to buy three Yasuda Trust businesses, in- data had not shown any recovery trend.

cluding its pension fund management and its securities custodian service.

Financial sources said Japan's Financial Supervisory Agency had pressed Fuji Bank to make Yasuda Trust a subsidiary to help Yasuda obtain public funds in order to recapitalize. A Fuji Bank spokesman said the bank might ask for more government aid than the 700 billion yen it indicated it would seek

in November. Fuji Bank finished 7 yen lower at 486, while Yasuda Trust dropped 1 to 92. The purchase was announced after the Japanese stock market closed.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP) ■ Japan Output Rise Called a Blip

Japan's industrial production rose unexpectedly in December, but this appeared to be a blip, as output for all of 1998 posted its worst drop in 23 years, government data showed Thursday, enters reported.

Output rose 1.3 percent in December from November, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said, well above the ministry's prediction of 0.3 percent. But analysts said the improvement was largely a result of publicworks spending, not private demand, and the ministry acknowledged that the

In Japan, GMAC Seeks Property-Backed Loans

TOKYO — General Motors Acceptance Corp., a fi-nancial-services unit of the world's largest automaker, has budgeted \$1 billioo to buy Japanese bad loans backed by property, a lawyer for GMAC in Tokyo said Thursday. It would be the company's first venture into real-estate investment in Japan, said the lawyer, Koichi Nakata, who last week accompanied GMAC officials to meet representatives of banks and casualty insurers.

"We'll be talking to some companies about specifics ahead of March 31, the end of the business year," Mr. Nakata said.

The move puts GMAC alongside Credit Suisse First Boston and other U.S. and European investors who are using Japan's financial crisis as an opportunity to shop for real-estate-backed loans at bargain prices. Japanese banks are saddled with trillions of yen in unrecoverable loans that they need to get off their books as soon as possible.

U.S. investors spent about \$6 billion last year on bad loans backed by property in Japan, according to an estimate by Ernst & Young Kenneth Leventhal's Asia real-estate group.

Those loans were bought for as little as 10 percent of book value, the company said.

Japanese banks are particularly anxious to purge their books of bad loans now, since the government took over Nippon Credit Bank Ltd., saying the bank had more losses than it could cover with capital.

GMAC will develop and manage the property it buys rather than resell it for a fast profit, Mr. Nakata said. It may later invest in other types of property, he said.

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INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

On-Line Stock Trading Soars to a Record — but So Do Complaints

By Stephen Labaton New York Tunes Service

WASHINGTON - One of the millions of small investors who recently flocked to cyberspace placed an order through his on-line brokerage account for a hot new Internet stock, Theglobe.com Inc., thinking it Jould cost between \$15 and \$25 a share. His order was filled for 2,300 shares, at a price of \$90 a. share and a total bill of \$207,000, nearly \$150,000 more than he had expected.

Another investor placed an order on his personal computer to sell 30 shares of a different company, never got an electronic confirmation and so placed the sell order again, winding up selling 60 shares, twice the number of shares he owned.

A third investor tried to cancel an order to bny 45 shares of a stock and received an acknowledgmeot that his cancellation order had been received. But the investor wound up purchasing the

The three investors are among hunthe Securities and Exchange Commission, which reported Wednesday that the record amount of co-line trading now 25 percent of all retail stock trading in the United States and growing quickly - had also brought a record number of complaints.

As of Sept. 30, the number of complaints had quadrupled from the pre-vious year, to 1,114.

In recent weeks, with new issoes of highly volatile Internet and technology stocks coming to market weekly at prices that are seducing new investors into trying to get rich quick, officials report that complaints are coming in faster than they can be processed.

Arthur Levitt, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. cautioned small investors who have swarmed to trade on the Internet to pproach on-line investing with care, to keep fundamentals of investing in miad and to place limits oo the prices of buy and sell orders to avoid the kinds of problems that are plaguing the emerging

10032



Arthur Levitt, the SEC chairman, says small

sale went through nonetheless, and the group of small traders. "Investors need to remember the investment basics and oot allow the ease and speed with which they trade to lull them either into a false sease of security or encourage them to trade too quickly or too often," Mr. Levitt said. "Some of the issues raised specifically relate to on-line trading; others are generic to all investing. The majority of them can be addressed

> New opportunities present all of us with new responsibilities, challenges and risks.'

through better education and investors ensuring that they have done their homework."

By the end of this year, about 10 million brokerage accounts are expec-. ted to be able to trade electronically. oearly twice as many as are now trading on the World Wide Web.

The stunning growth of on-line trading has already transformed Wall Street, sharply reducing commission costs, increasing the speed of trading and making stock trading more accessible than ever before.

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But the explosion of on-line trading has prompted a certain complacency that can be dan-

The flood of complaints to both securities firms and regulatory agencies comes in large part from investors who mistakenly thought that their ability to trade almost instantaneously through their personal computers had put them on an equal footing with seasoned traders on Wall Street.

Yet in part the problems being encountered demonstrate that technological advances in personal computers and the In-ternet lagged behind the advances that had been made at the stock exchanges.

For example, the stock price that consumers see on their screens may bear no resemblance to the actual current price investors should take care when investing on-line. at the exchange, particularly when the stock is volatile or

when trading volume is particularly heavy. Those lags have become common with hot new public offerings of technology stocks, whose prices seem to have moved with the speed of light. Mr. Levitt said in an interview Wednesday that some of the problems were rooted in misunderstandings about the

oew technology. He said other problems could be attributed to neophyte traders themselves, many of whom probably lack an understanding of the risks as-sociated with such high-flying issues. While the more than 100 brokerage companies now on the Internet have

different approaches to resolving customer complaints, the wave of filings at the regulatory agencies demonstrates that in many cases the companies are not reimbursing their customers. Instead, to reduce the problems and try to insulate themselves from possible

liability, many companies are posting warning statements about trading problems caused by volatility and high volume on their Web sites. Those statements were posted even before the National Association of Securities Dealers issued a notice Tresday recommending that the firms begin to take steps to educate investors about delays and other

possible problems. Mr. Levitt warned comings if oot used properly.

"Millions of new investors have they see on their computer screens may not necessarily reflect current prices. they should consider the advantages of placing orders that limit the price at

which a trade can be executed. Mr. Levitt also cautioned investors not to forsake basic principles of investing and understand that, as much as the new technology has provided important benefits, it can have its short-

imsterdam, 26 January, 1999

(CDRs)

AMSTERDAM DEPOSITABY COMPANY N.V.

Amsterdam, January 25, 1999

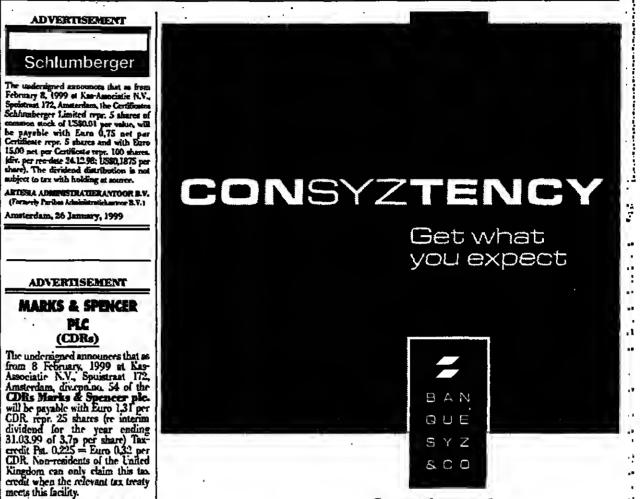
taken advantage of the unprecedented access and individual control the Internet provides," he said.

But new opportunines present all of us with new responsibilities, challenges

Nancy Smith, director of investor education at the Securities and Exchange Commission, said that the most common complaints involved investors

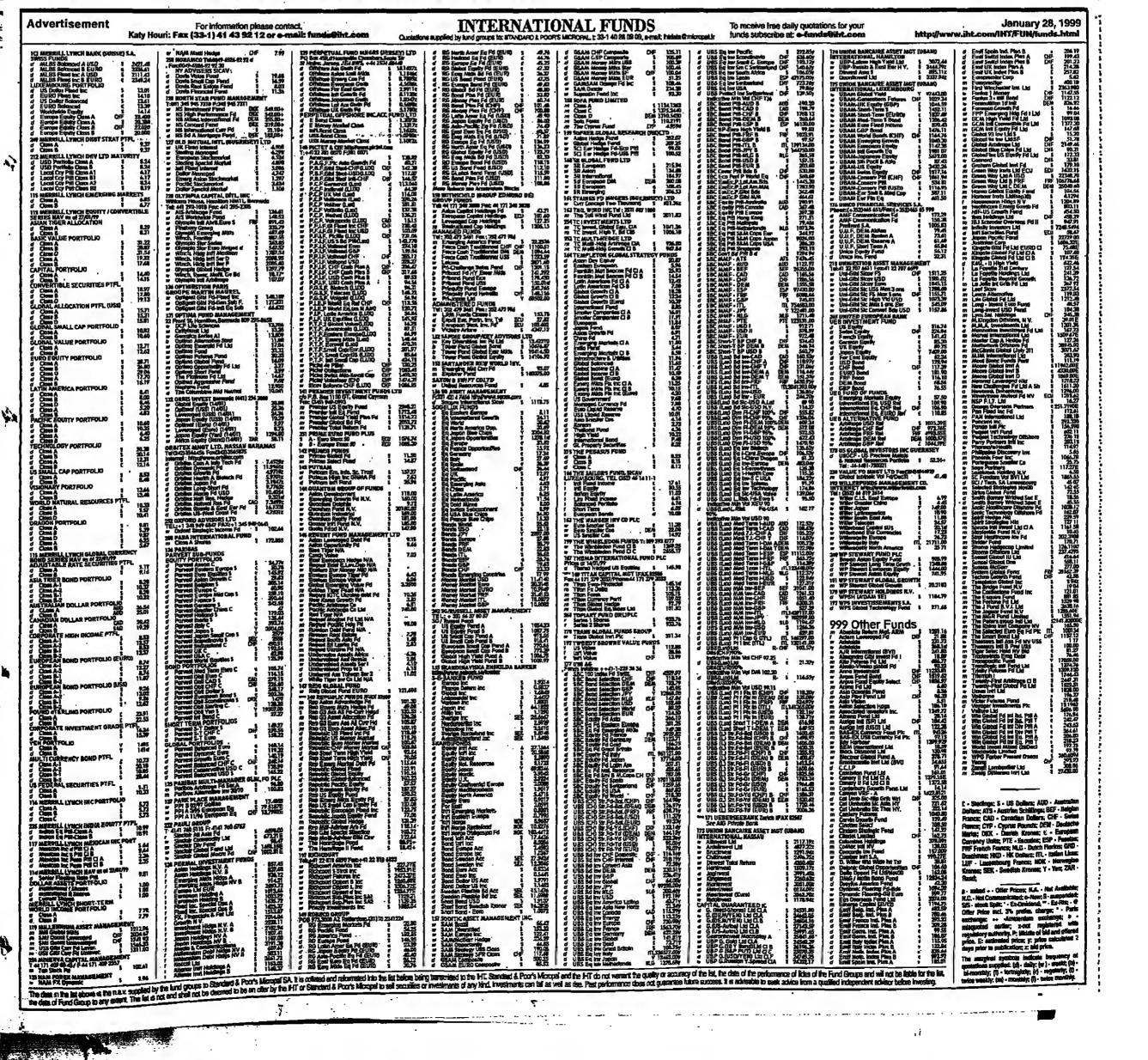
who had bought securities at prices significantly higher than the prices posted on their screens.

Other complaints, she said, reflected the fact that investors had moved with a few clicks of the personal computer's mouse into securities that, upon reflection, should never have been purchased. and still others were from consumers who thought they had canceled their purchases, only to learn that their orders had not actually been canceled.



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WORLD ROUNDUP From Forlorn to Glittering: A Game's Drive to Glory

Pakistan in a Spin

CRICKET Anil Kumhle, an Indian spin bowler, took six wickets Thursday as Pakistan was all out for 238 in Madras on the opening day of the first test against India.

Kumhle, who finished with six for 70, and Javagal Srinath, a me-dium-pace bowler who took three for 63, made full use of the hard. At the close, India had reached

48 without loss in its first innings.

• Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, was found guilty Thursday of improper conduct and given a six-match ban, suspended for 12 months, and fined 75 percent of his match fee by an International Cricket Council disciplinary panel. Ranatunga led his team off the field when Muttiah Muralitharan, a Sri Lankan spin bowler, was no-balled in a one-day match Saturday in Adetaide, Australia.

Russians Take Control

SKATING Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov kept Russia on track for its third consecutive sweep of European Figure Skating Championship titles by taking the original dance section of the ice dance competition Thursday.

Krylova and Ovsiannikov gave a fast-flowing presentation to music from "La Traviata." Marina An-issina and Gwendal Peizerat of France were second.

Russia claimed the first title of the championships Wednesday night when Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov won the pairs competition.

Russians held the first three places in the women's competition going into the short program Fri-

Milwaukee Signs Abbott

BASEBALL The Milwaukee Brewers and the St. Louis Cardinals dipped into the cheaper end of

the free-agent pool.

The Brewers signed Jim Ahbort to a \$600,000, one-year contract. The one-handed pitcher will have to bat for the first time since high

The Cardinals signed Carlos Baerga, an infielder whose career slumped in the last three years, to a \$1.25 million, one-year deal. (AP)

Bordeaux Buys and Sells

SOCCER Bordeaux of the French first division bought one striker Thursday and was poised to sell another. It acquired Ivan Perez from Real Bens of Seville for an undisclosed fee. He signed a fourand-a-half year contract. Perez. who plays under the name of Ivan, turns 23 Friday.
Arsenal of the English Premier

League said it expects to complete the signing of Kaba Diawara, a French under-21 player, from Bordeaux by the weekend for a reported £3 million (\$4.95 million).

 John Harkes returned to England on Thursday, where the former U.S. captain joined Nottingham Forest, Harkes, who plays for D.C. United in the United States, will stay with Forest at least until the end of March. (AFP, Reuters)

Duke Beats Tar Heels

BASKETBALL William Avery scored 21 points as Duke, ranked No. 2 among U.S. colleges, bear North Carolina, ranked No. 10, 89-77, Wednesday night.

By Leonard Shapiro Washington Post Service

IAMI — The last Super Bowl of the XXth century is Sunday. Land many of the people who either witnessed or helped plan the first one 32 years ago readily admit they did not foresce the gargantuan impact the National Football League's championship game has had on the sport or, for that matter, on the world of sports.

"I look around, and it still amazes me." said Don Weiss, who was director of communications for the NFL in 1967 when teams from his league and the upstart American Football League played for the first time.

The excitement and buzz before Sunday's game between the Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons is very different from the somewhat forlorn atmosphere surrounding the first game, at the Los Angeles Coliseum between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. That was the only Super Bowl that was not sold out, with close to 32,000 seats staying empty at the 93,000-seat Coliseum. Planning for the contest didn't even start until two months before the opening kickoff, while details of the merger between the two leagues were still being ironed out in Washington.

Weiss recalled that no more than 10 people from the league, including sev-

Sharpe Decides

The Super Bowl

Is Not the Place

To Mince Words

By Michael Wilbon

MIAMI -- The question put to Shan-

'I was always a talker," he said.

non Sharpe was when, exactly, did be

"You just don't wake up one morning

and say, 'I think I want to talk a little

more.' Some are better at it than oth-

tight end, may one day be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But he's

already in the Talkers Hall of Fame, a unanimous first-ballot selection.

"I was a talker back in elementary school. I used to get A's and B's in

everything, but I got an F in conduct I

had a speech class in elementary school.

And you know how teachers, when a kid

is struggling to pronounce a word, used

to lead him and say, 'Johnny, sounds

can't read.' Teacher told me to leave the

replaced "Johnny" on the wrong end of

Sharpe's razor-sharp tongue, ever since the Broncos laid a 38-3 whipping on

Miami in a playoff game. Sharpe said

before the game that the Broncos were

10 to 14 points better than the Dolphins.

and that come the final week of January,

"The Dolphins will be kicked out of

their own home and Mike Shanahan will

ing Dan Marino a "loser" after that

game, it provided a questioner with the

chance to ask if there were any other

boundaries Sharpe had, places he

friends," he said. "I won't do that.

Now, if you have a deformity, I will talk

"I don't talk mothers, wives or girl-

Sharpe on the sliding Dallas Cow-

When Sharpe said he regretted call-

be in Jimmy Johnson's office."

simply wouldn't go.

"I said out loud, 'Sounds like Johnny

The Miami Dolphins recently have

like ... ? Johnny. sounds like ... ?

room.

Sharpe, the Denver Broncos' all-pro

begin to run his mouth like this.

ducing that first Super Bowl. Now retired. Weiss is involved as a part-timer among a staff of more than 200 working on the game here this week.

We didn't get the go-ahead until October, "Weiss said. "We hadn't even picked the site, and we didn't know who was going to televise it. There was still a local blackout rule in effect, and the media in Los Angeles kept writing that



it was going to be lifted, and it really hurt ticket sales. In fact, the first five Super Bowls were blacked out locally and shown on tape delay at midnight." Tickets in 1967 were priced between

\$6 and \$12 each, compared with \$325 for the game Sunday, which was sold out months in advance. In 1967, a one-minute advertisement

on U.S. television cost \$80,000 in a game aired by both CBS, the NFL rights holder, and NBC, the AFL's network.

game in the United States, will get \$1.6. million for each 30-second advertisement and long ago sold out its \$93 million inventory. It will earn a further S45 million from an unprecedented seven-hour pregame show, NBC used four cameras that first year, Fox will have a

record 31 on Sunday.

There were no hospitality tents for the first game. This week, there will be 35 tents outside Pro Player Stadium, with some companies spending as much as \$5 million to party and 200 corporations claiming some link to the game.

In 1967, the NFL issued 338 media credentials - 600 if you counted TV technical support. This year, more than 3,000 have been given out. The telecast will be carried in more than 100 countries, with Fox expecting 135 million U.S. viewers and a worldwide audience of more than 800 million.

HE NAME Super Bowl wasn't attached to the game until its third year, accompanied by the famously fulfilled Joe Namath guarantee that his New York Jets would beat the Baltimore Colts. The daughter of the Kansas City owner, Lamar Hunt, was playing with what was then called a "super hall." and the story goes that Hunt persuaded his fellow owners to rename their game, previously referred

eral outside consultants, worked on pro- This year, Fox, which is showing the to as the NFL-AFL Championship, with a slight variation from the name of that bouncing hall.

According to Weiss, Pete Rozelle, the NFL commissioner at the time, wasn't wild about the use of "super" because he considered it a cliche. But both networks had used "Snper Sunday" in their promotion of the first two games. and Rozelle went along.
Rozelle also wanted an extra week

between the conference championships games and this finale to help build pub-lic interest.

'h was as calculated a decision as was ever made by the league," said Tex Schramm, the former president of the Dallas Cowboys, "The idea was to give the game time to build. That allowed us time to get the teams in early, to make them available, to make sure the media got everything it needed to tell the world about our game.

The Namath game clearly had a huge impact. A year later, Weiss said Rozelle knew the league was on to something special when he was able to announce at a news conference the day after Super Bowl IV between Minnesota and Kan-sas City that the ratings had surpassed those of the first walk on the moon by the astronaut Neil Armstrong the previous summer.

In the years since, eight of the 15 all-time top-rated U.S. TV programs have

been Snper Bowls, led by Game XVI between San Francisco and Cincinnati with a 49.1 rating. Nine of the 10 most watched sports programs of all the ception is the Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan skating soap opera in the 1994 Winter Olympics, in third place.

NE FACET that has never changed has been the pressure to win. Lee Remmel, now the Green Bay Packers' public-relations director, was a reporter covering the first Super Bowl for the Green Bay Press Gazette. He recalled that the Packers' coach. Vince Lombardi, was particularly on edge before his team beat Kan-sas City in the first title game.

"I remember wide receiver Max McGee telling me it was the most uptight he'd ever seen Lombardi, "Remmel said,
"All the owners had been telling him that he couldn't lose the game because it would damage the prestige of the old established league if he lost to the upstart league. That really bothered him.

"After they won, the media ker

goading him to compare the Chiefs to other teams in the lengue. Finally he said, 'Dammit, there are probably four or five teams in our league better then the Chiefs. Now are you satisfied?' That got a lot of coverage, and it helped get the interest up for the next year, too,"

The Shanahan Goal: **Perfection Every Play**

Coach Is a Genius at the Game, Broncos Say

By Charlie Nobles

MIAMI - Terrell Davis is splendid, John Elway is like fine wine and Bill Romanowski leads a ferocious defense. But with the Denver Broncos, they are chess pieces in Coach Mike Shanahan's head, to be artfully used on game day.

Much of the Broncos' success since 1995 can be traced to the hiring of Shanahan, who seems to be an all-in-one boss. He is a distinguished offensive mind, but he also oversees the team's defense, drafts players, makes trades and negotiates contracts.

All with one pursuit in mind - per-

'We're not late for meetings, we're not late for lifting weights, we practice plays until we get them right," said Tony Jones, an offensive tackle. "Everything has to be dead on schedule or

Mike lets as know about it." Pat Bowlen, the team owner, loves the mind-set that Shanahan has created with his players. As the Broncos' owner tells it, one of the team's charter flights earlier this season was a minute late

This is a man who has been known to script his family's vacations down to the minute of each day. While an assistant coach at the University of Florida in the early 1980s, he would insist that his quarterbacks redraw a diagram whenever they had the line of scrimmage

He is never without felt-tipped pens, better to scheme up another play or think of another slogan to post in the locker room.
"I call him the Mastermind," said

John Mohley, a Denver linebacker. "He always seems two or three steps ahead of everybody else."

Steve Atwater, the veteran safety, said the label "genius" fits Shanahan.
"The longer I'm around him, the more I realize he's a guy who knows football inside and out." Atwater said.

.The Associated Press

NHL ROUNDUP

buck in Florida's 2-1 victory Wednes-

day night. "First of all, I'm really happy

in four games since joining the Panthers on Jan. 17, also hit the crossbar and failed

to score on a breakaway. Florida is 3-0-1

with Bure and trails first-place Carolina by one point in the Southeast Division.

delayed penalty was called on the Ca-

nadiens. Bure backhanded a pass to

Kvasha, whose wrist shot from the slot

The game-winner came after a

Bure, who has six goals and one assist

Bure Is a Smash at Home

"If there's a situation, no matter what is, he knows how to deal with it." The man with the icy glare has created distinguished offenses everywhere he has been — and particularly at Florida, then in stints as offensive coordin-

ator with the Broncos and the San Francisco 49ers and during the past three seasons, as head coach at Denver. The Broncos are 43-10 during his

tenure, incloding 16-2 heading into Sunday's Super Bowl against the Atlanta Falcons.

Shanahan admits to a risk-taking side. He has bungee-jumped, experi-mented with hang gliding and this past Christmas bought a motorcycle. But in his work he tries to take the risk out of

"We run our plays in practice to be perfect," Jones said, "It's no 'We'll get, t next week' or 'We'll get it next year. We run every play to be a perfect play. That's what makes our offense so good. We go out there knowing that every play has to be like the last play — perfect."
Elway, the team's 38-year-old quarterback, said Shanahan won't yell at

him, possibly in deference to his distinguished career, but often will use the get his message across. Still, the quarterback calls Shanahan

players' coach.

That doesn't necessarily mean he has to be huddy-huddy," Elway said.
"A players' coach is a coach the players like, but he's not huddy-huddy with anybody. He's the boss."

Shanahan, who two years ago hegan having a huffet hreakfast served to his players before meetings after he saw too

many of them eating junk food, accepts
the "players' coach" tag.
"To me, if you do the little things for
people, they know, and they'll do then for you," he said. "In return, when the game is on the line and you're asking them to do something they might not want to do, then they want to do it for you because they know you care about

In Knicks Debut, Sprewell **Stages a Great Comeback**

By William Gildea

NEW YORK --- The lights at Madison Square Garden were dimmed for the introduction of the New York Knicks starting lineup. Fans who filled most of the Garden seats applauded politely for the first three Knicks, but when the fourth trotted on to the court they sent up a sustained roar of welcome. This was their new No. 8, the one they had been talking about for almost a week since he had been acquired, the one they had

NBA PRESIASON

come to see. The Broadway huzz similar to an opening night on a more traditional stage - was created Wednesday by the New York debut of the controversial guard Latrell Sprewell.

In a National Basketball Association preseason opener, the Knicks enjoyed a midseason excitement not because their opponents were the cross-Hudson River rival New Jersey Nets or because the fans were eager after waiting so long during the owners' lockout or because no admission to the game was charged. Sprewell himself caused the stir, scoring 27 points, including 17 in the third period, to electrify the crowd and lead the Knicks to an 88-87 victory. Hitting 11 of 14 shots in 30 minutes, he played

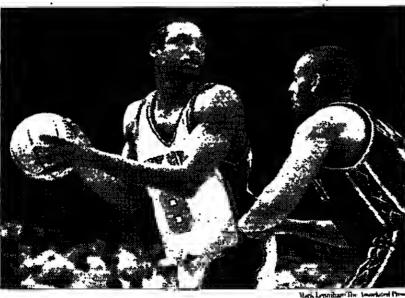
as though he hadn't missed a day. But Sprewell had not played since Dec. 1, 1997, when he choked and threatened his Golden State coach, P.J.

Carlesimo, and was suspended the rest of the season (68 games). "Almost 14 months — it felt like an eternity," Sprewell told scores of reporters crowded in front of his locker. "I didn't feel too good early on. I was really rusty. In the second half I tried to relax and not force anything. I took some poor shots in the first half, but in the second half I really felt good."

The fans got behind him as Garden fans have been known to do when they get emotional. They watched him intently, cheered when he touched the ball for the first time three minutes into the game, responded more loudly 35 seconds later when he sank a 15-footer for his first points as a Knick. Sprewell's trademark comrows bohbed against his neck as he descended to the hardwood, but if he felt relief that he was on the scoreboard for the home team in this renowned arena, he

revealed no emotion. But by late in the third period, he could no longer hide his happiness. He exchanged high-fives and chest bumps with the teammates he had pumped with joy. By the fourth period, he had propelled the Knicks to a 16-point lead. But he shied from taking credit, thanking teammates for setting him up and the

fans for their support. "Even when I wasn't playing well in the first half, they were behind me," he said. "I was loving that. I wouldn't turn it down for anything." Sprewell smiled. He hadn't smiled like that in a long time. Still, Knicks Coach Jeff Van Gundy and who coold hlame him? --- preferred



Shannon Sharpe enjoying himself in an interview before the Super Bowl.

boys: 'They've gone from America's posing defensive line. But the D-linemen

out of talking."

your account."

can t get to me. I m lined up too wil keep moving out wider until they really

can't get me, then I laugh at them."

The Miami Herald reached Sharpe's

76-year-old grandmother, Mary Porter,

the woman who raised him. "Unless he was sleeping," she said, "he was always running his mouth about something. He likes to act up. He gets a kick out of talking."

Last year at the Super Bowl, Sharpe said, "If the Packers try to cover me

one-on-one and beat my hutt, then I will

renounce my citizenship, move out of

the country and leave all of my assets to

passes. Denver won its first Super Bowl, and Sharpe said afterward: "People bet

the farm that Green Bay would beat us

hy 12, and you know what? They're

Sharpe caught a tearn-high five

to America's Most

Team. The current champion is Amer-

ica's Team. We're the champ. We went

14-2. When Secretariat was 21 lengths

in front, nobody went to the window and

said, 'I'm putting \$2 on the second-

Sharpe on why he didn't root for the

Falcons even though he grew up close to

Atlanta: "What did I think of the Fal-

cons? If you had a pair of cleats, they'd

put you in the game. For \$20 you could

Sharpe on the reception he gets on the

Sharpe on the fact that his offensive

road: "Most fans outside Denver don't

like me, and for good reason. I give them

linemen don't like it when he makes

comments that fire up opposing defend-

ers: "Our offensive line coach fines me

every time I say something to the op-

every reason not to like me.

sit in the luxury box with the owner."

place horse.

Latrell Sprewell keeping the ball away from Lucious Harris of the Nets.

a let's-wait-and-see approach. "He did some good things," the coach said in understatement. The 6-fooi-5 Sprewell, 28, was

banned for one year and had his contract terminated by the Warriors, but an arbitrator reduced the suspension to 68 games and reinstated the last two years of his contract, worth \$17.3 million. Sprewell was an all-star in three of his six seasons at Golden State, with a career scoring average of 20.1. The Madison Square Garden chief executive officer, Dave Checketts, and the Knicks president, Ernie Grunfeld, believed they conidn't pass up the chance to add Sprewell's scoring ability in exchange for John Starks, Chris Mills and Terry Cummings. Sprewell's New York debut coincided with the departure of a re-

spected 17-year veteran. Buck Williams, who announced his retirement Wednesday; came out of Maryland to play eight seasons with the Nets, seven

"I always wanted to be a good role model." Williams said. "I think players have an obligation to the public to carry themselves in a certain way. I've never wanted to embarrass myself, the organization or my family. My father always told me, a good name means more than a million dollars"

In Wednesday's other preseason game. The Associated Press reported: Cavaliers 86, Pistons 82 Litterial Green scored four of his five points down the stretch as Cleveland hung on for a victory at Detroit in a ragged

in Portland and two with the Knicks.

beat the Montreal goaltender, Jeff Hackett, for his eighth goal of the season with 13:42 left in the third period. "We knew he would want to put on a display with all the media attention he's been getting, "said Alain Vigneanlt, the Montreal coach.

we won.

Bure seemed fatigued after playing more than 30 minutes in his three-goal game against the Philadelphia Flyers on uesday. He didn't have a shot on net Wednesday until 18:26 of the second period when Jeff Hackett snared his point-blank hlast.

As Panthers Triumph, 2-1 The fans saved their loudest cheers Playing in his first home game for the for Bure's penalty-killing clearing anthers. Pavel Bure set up Oleg passes during a two-man Canadiens ad-

Panthers. Pavel Bure set up Oleg Kvasha's game-winning goal at 6:18 of the third period as Florida toppled the vantage in the second period. Bure came alive in the third with his wrist shot that hit the crossbar. He then set up Kvasha for his first assist as a "It's great to play in front of fans that really support us," Bure said after he was cheered every time he touched the

Stars 3, Kings 2 In Dallas, Brian Skrudland and Joe Nieuwendyk scored third-period goals as the Stars remained unbeaten against Los Angeles over the past four seasons.

With the game tied at 1-1. Skrudland scored on a rebound of Dave Reid's shot with 15:42 to play to help extend the Stars' unbeaten string against the Kings to 14 games.

Blackhawks 4, Oilers 3 Tony Amonte's second goal of the game, with eight seconds left in ovenime, was the game-winner as Chicago won in Edmonton to move out of last place in the Western Conference.

Nelson Emerson and Ed Olczyk also scored for Chicago, which extended its undefeated streak to four games and moved one point ahead of idle Calgary. Jame Niinimaa scored his first goal of the season and Pat Falloon and Ryan Smyth added tallies for the Oilers, who rallied from a 3-0 deficit to force over-

Mo-mont

Subscriptice

Avalanche 4, Mighty Ducks 3 Peter
Forsberg had a goal and two assists and
Greg DeVries scored his first goal of the in Anaheim. It was the Avalanche's sixth straight victory.

exhibinon game.

Unseeded Wonder Serves Davenport a Defeat

MELBOURNE - The brushfire that has transformed unseeded men's tennis players into world-beaters jumped geoders on Thursday, as Lindsay Davenport was scorched in the semifinals of the Australian Open by a French 19-year-old named Amelic Mauresmo.

Mauresmo upset the No. 1 seed, 4-6, 7-5, on a humid afternoon to earn a place in the final of the year's first Grand Slam tournament Saturday against Martina Hingis, the No. 2 seed.

Hingis became the first person to beat Mooica Seles in the Australian Open, winning, 6-2, 6-4, in straightforward fashion. Seles, who had won this tournament on her four previous visits, is 33-1 in Melbourne, but io the wake of Mauresmo's remarkable victory that was little more than a detail.

"Every time I got my foot through the door and thought I was going to get through to the end, it got shut on my foot," Davenport said, "It's disappointing. I haven't had a match slin through my hands in a long had a match slip through my hands in a long time, so it's hard to take, especially in the

The match was a struggle from the be-ginning. Trailing 0-1. Daveoport had to save five break points just to hold her serve. She would soon take a 5-2 lead, frequently Australian Open / Christopher Clarey

forcing the French teenager onto her back foot with flat power from the baseline. But when Davenport served for the set, she was broken as Mauresmo fired a forehand return winner crosscourt.

The tall Californian closed out the ser but she was unable to win another against the athleoc Mauresmo, ranked 29th but oot for long. Mauresmo's aggressive groundstrokes, well-struck first serves and line-toline court coverage created problem after problem for Davenport, the U.S. Opeo champion.

Davenport was not as sharp or cocksure as she has been on hard courts to receot months. She made nearly as many unforced errors as winners and missed several short forehands. She was also oegative. dropping her racquet on occasioo io frustration, but that was partly because Mauresmo succeeded in playing tricks with Daveoport's rhythm and confidence.

In their only previous meeting, Mauresmo beat Davenport on clay at the German Open last spring on her way to the final. That tournament, for which Mauresmo had to qualify, represented Maur-esmo's breakthrough as a professional, and

though she did not cootinue to win consistently, Yannick Noah, then the French team captain, thought highly enough of her abilities to select her to play Fed Cup singles against Switzerland in July, passing over Namalie Tauziat, the Wimbledon finalist.

It was Noah's emotional victory at the French Opeo in 1983 that convinced Mauresmo at the age of 4 that she wanted to be a teonis player. "My dream was always to be a Grand Slam champion," she said. "And so, in a way, deep inside me, I knew that I would make it to this level."

Like Noah, she spent several years liv-ing on the grounds at Stade Roland Garros. the site of the French Open, as a boarder in the French Federation's development program. She has developed into a physically striking figure with her strong chio and muscular shoulders, which look all the broader in the sleeveless shirt she has been

wearing in Melbourne.
"A couple of times, I thought I was playing a guy," Daveoport said. "The girl was bitting it so hard, so strong, and I would look over there and she's strong in the shoulders, those shoulders."

Coming from Davenport, who stands 6 foot 2 (1.88 meters) and is one of the hardest hitters in the history of women's tennis, that was quite a statement. She did not stop there. "I can't believe she's 19. Muscular. Everyone handles it differently. Some players aren't that strong, and they're great players. Some players are obviously very strong and pretty good. I'm sure she's only going to get stronger.

In the current climate of suspicion, al-

lusions to procounced musculature in a female athlete can quickly raise eyebrows, but Davenport's coach, Robert Van't Hof, said his pupil's remarks were intended to be complimentary, not accusatory.

"It's clear that Amelie is one of the most athletic players in the game." Van't Hof

Mauresmo's game does not rely as heavily as Davenport believes on overpowering her opponeoi. While she can rip a gorgeous one-handed backhand with pace, she frequently slices the shot, and is adept at varying ber forehand, too. Despite her topheavy appearance, she is light on her feet. Movement is one of her strengths, and she is not afraid to take risks by pushing for-

She has also upset No. 8 seed Party Schnyder, No. 11 seed Dominique Van Roost and will break into the top 20 next

Mauresmo's coach, Christophe Fouroeric, bas not been with her for long. She hired him in December, shortly after separatiog from Warwick Bashford.

Mauresmo showed few signs of nerves on Thursday. In the third set, in which she was twice down a break, she rallied with aplomb and broke Davenport to win the match with a fine backhand passing shot down the line that she will remember even looger than Davenport. Only then did she lose her balance, dropping to her knees clenching both fists.

"She didn't kind of hesitate at all; she took it." Davenport said. "For this tour-

nament, she is acting like a champion." To become one, she must beat Hingis, who, despite being '14 months her junior. has already won the last two Australian Opens and three other Grand Slam singles titles. Seles's winning streak in Melbourne is over but Hingis's is alive. After her is over, but Hingis's is alive. After her victory, she turned to Seles and said that. baving ended her frieod's perfect record, she was "almost not allowed to lose

Hingis will be the favorite on Saturday, but it bears remembering that, if the wind hlows like it can in Melbourne, a brushfire can be devilishly difficult to put out.

SOCCER

ENGLISH F.A. CUP

STALLAN CUP

PRINCIPLY INTERNATIONAL

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

MEN'S SIMOLES

THURSDAY IN MELBOU

field United 4 Corddf 1



Amelie Mauresmo celebrating after winning her semifinal against Lindsay Davenport on Thursday in Melbourne.

Enqvist Reaches His First Grand Slam Final

Sweden beat Nicolas Lapentti of men's doubles Thursday, Patrick Rafter, Ecuador, 6-3, 7-5, 6-1, oo Thursday to a local hero, and his partner, Jonas Bjorkreach his first Grand Slam final. Enqvist man of Sweden, beat the all-Australiao will face the winner of Friday's semifinal between No. 10 seed Yevgeni Kafel-

Germany.

MELBOURNE — Thomas Enquist of trailing in the men's singles, the Australian public showed more interest in the pair of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde in a five-set thriller to reach nikov of Russia and Tommy Haas of the final. Their opponeous will be Mahesh Boupathi and Leander Paes of In-With the established stars out of the dia, the world's top-ranked team.

SCOREBOARD

NHL STANDINGS

15 24 6 36 115 135 15 27 4 -34 112 139 ICEHOCKEY PACIFIC DIVISION
W L 7 Pts GF, GA,
28 9 7 43 139 91
24 11 8 56 114 88
17 20 9 43 114 112
15 19 72 42 104 109
5 16 26 4 36 108 124 W L T Ph GF GA 24 10 11 59 138 90 26 14 5 57 133 117 20 15 7 47 125 118 18 21 7 43 121 125 Mapired 8 0 1-1 Mohred

A B 2-2
Florida
Florida
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Florida
Nona, Sacond Period: Mone,
Third
Period: M-Rrisehola 2 (Record),
Corson), 2 F-Parrish 12 (Niedernayee
Whitney) 3 F-, Krossha 8 (Bure, Dvanold
Shots on goal: M. 7-15-8—30, F- 9-6-17—32,
Godflac: M-Hackett, F-Burka,
Los Anaeles

1 8 1—2 HEAST DIVISION

W L 7 Pts GF GA
27 16 3 57 152 133
25 15 6 56 134 105
22 13 8 54 120 87
20 17 7 47 117 101
18 22 8 44 109 123
HEAST DIVISION

23 19 4 50 118 114 (Selsyne) Shortson grout C 12-7-3-22.A-13-18 20 7 43 129 120 9-12-34 Gentless C-Roy. A-Hebert.

Chicage 2 1 0 1-4
Edmonton 0 2 1 0-3
First Period: C-Emerson 11 (Gilmout.
Chellos) 2 C-Okcryk 4 (std., Second Period: Chesics 2. C-Olcyt. 4. (St)., Second Period: C-Amonre 25. (Zmolet., Gilmour). 4. E., Falliama 1. (Sanyth, Weight). (pp). 5. E., Falliam 12. (Bernack, McSorkey). Third. Period: E.-Smyth & (Minmou, Nihalmon). (pp). Overtises: 7. C. Amonte 24. (Gilmous, Emerson). Shots on goal: C. 6-12-6-9-33. E., 7-18-10-3-38. Geofles: C. Tribouth. E.

BASKETBALL

NBA PRESEASON WEDNESDAY RESULTS ad 86. Octro# 82 New York 88, New Jersey 87

U.S. COLLEGE SCORES WEDNESDAY REGULTS

MEN Mo. 2. Duly (NO-1) det, No. 10 N.C. (17-5) 89-77.
No. 4. Maryland (19-2) det, Florida, St. 107-77.
No. 7. Authorit (19-1) det, Miles, Shate 64-54.
No. 8. Authorit (19-1) det, Miles, Shate 64-54.
No. 8. Authorities St. (17-6) def, No. 15 Ohio St.

(15-6) 76-71. No. 9. 52. Johns (17-4) def. No. 17 Syrocuse No. 14, Pendine (15-6) lest to Northw... 54-50. No. 3 Ls. Tech (16-7) def. SW Lo. 90-63. 5. Tationic Tolenkoning/March Martine Ros. 75 Martine Hingis (2): 5 with No. 12 feat (14-1) def. Penn Stope 84-74. No. 5 Care. (17-2) def. No. 13 Religios (14-7) 56-55. 6. Yudia Oberton/Omitri Palamenthut, Ulra: 9.0 ica Seles (6). U.S. 6-2 6-4.

Na. 21. Artems as (15-5) def. LSU 86-64. No. 22. Kenson (13-6) lost to Nebrosko 84-69. No. 23. Miserii (13-6) def, Seton Holl 77-71. No. 25. Florida (15-3) del, Alabama 72-68.

LEADING COLLEGES

Boston College 78, Notice Dame 67
Delaware 99, Oresel 91, OT
Holy Crass 77, Lehigh 67
Latryette 66, Bucknell 65
Loyola, Md. 91, Marist 69

Loyota Md. 9). Mariet &7
Maine 74, Vermani 72, OT
Novy 56. Colgate 54
Roode Island 82, 51. Josephs 68
West Virginio 85. Morsion 84. DT
American U. 68. Wisisam 5. Mory 65
James Madison 69, Old Dominion 65
South Carelina 67. Mississipal 66
Tennessee 78, Vanderbilt 67
Virginio 64, Virginio Tech 55
Alvon 97, Boll 51, 83
Bradiey 47, Creighton 57
Indiano 53, 77, Illinois 51, 67
Rent 71, Orio U. 70 Indiano St. 77, Ninois St. 67
Kent 71, Orio U. 70
Minsouri 70, Karraes St. 63
N. Lowa 79, Wichita St. 76
SW Misseuri St. 90, Droke BS
Teledo 75, Cent. Michigan 64
W. Michigan 75 E. Michigan 64
Oblishorna St. 65, Southern Miss. 64

Texas AAM 68. Texas Texts AT Colorado 64. Iona St. 44 Socramento St. 60, Montana ST

No. 10 Tes. Tech (18-2) def, Oldohomo 89-87, No. 21 Peop St. (14-5) def. Norther, 93-60. No. 22 Boston Cell. (16-3) def. Scion Hot 60-55.

CRICKET INDIA VS. PAKISTAN FIRST TEST, FIRST DAY

Inter Milan & Lazio 2 THURSDAY IN MADRAS, MOU 238 all put Perma wan 6-3 on aggregate SOUTH AFRICA VA. WEST INDIES SCOTTISH PREMIUR LEAGUE

THIRD ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL WEDNESDAY IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA South Africa: 274-9 in 50 overs West Indies: 219 pll out 43.1 overs.

FIGURESKATING

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

PAIRS FINAL 1. Marja Petrovo/Alexel Tildranos, Russia, 3.5 2 Derois Zogorske/Marjusz Studek, Pot. 4.0 2 Sarah Abitbol/Stephane Bernadis, Fr. 4.0

WEDNESOAY IN PRACUE

Liperati, Ecuador, 63, 7-5 6-1. BEAUFMALS Mouresmo, France, del, Lindson (1), U.S., 4-6, 7-5, 7-5.

I THINK THE SHORT

CALVIN AND HOBBES

MEN'S DOUBLES

SEMIFUNALS Mohesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes (1), India, def. Ellis Ferreira, South Africa, and Rick Leach (4), U.S. 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, 7-6 (7-5). Jones Bjorkman, Sweden, Und Polinck Rofler (S), Aus., del. Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodferde, Aus., 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-6.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES Lindsoy Dovenport, U.S., and Natosha Zvereva (1), Botorus, def. Screna Williams and Venus Watigms U.S., 1-6 6-4 6-4

MIXED DOUBLES m, South Africa, and Debbie Groham, U.S., def. Donald Joh

TRANSITIONS

berty Po, U.S. 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

BASEBALL MAJOR LEAGUE BABEBALL AMERICAN LEAGUE

ANAHEIM—Agreed to terms with LHP Mike ome on 1-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA—Agreed to terms with LHP Ornor Dool on 2-year controct, mit.WAUKEE—Agreed to learns with LHP Jim Abbott on 1-year contract. Designated Bhergu on 1-year contract Sent OF Alank Little outnight to Memphys. P.C.L. San DIEGO-Agreed to ferms with LHP Stelling Hitchcock on 3-year contract BASICHTBALL. NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

BOSTON-Signed C Enc Riky, CNICAGO-Signed C Priest Lauderdale, Re-leased G Curte Staples, F Martin Moursept and F Bubba Wells CLEVELAND—Wanned F Shawn Harian, DALLAS—Re-Signed F Certic Ceballos to 1 vent contract.

HEW YORK—Announced retirement of F
Buch Williams,
VANCOUVER—Signed F Shared Abdur Ruthm to 6-year contract extension.

washington—Re-signed F-C Ben Wallace to 2-year contract.

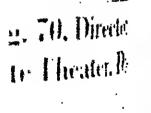
POOTEAU MATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE CAROLINA—Nomed Som Mills Anebocket Conch. Bob Voleschie secondory Conch. and Jerry Simmuns strength and conditioning

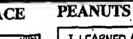
CINCUMATI-Signed DB Rodney Health t CLEVELAND-Named Bob Pakic offensa KANSAS CITY-Named Keith Routes light

ends couch, NEW ENGLAND-Nomed Ivan Fears wide to Celvers couch, Brud Seely special learns cooch, and Danke Sournection offensive line couch, SAN FIGANCISCO—Signed OT Angel Rubio. SEATTLE-Named Paul Federici att ST. LOUIS-Agreed to terms with 2B Cartes tree

DENNIS THE MENACE

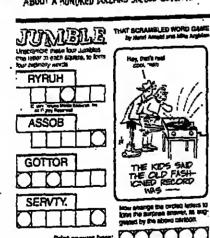
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WELL? PO















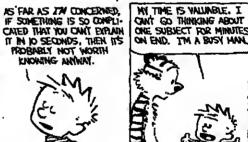










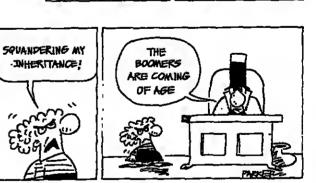


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An Atheist's Souvenirs

By Rick Lyman
New York Times Service

PLUGERVILLE, Texas — from one of the bank accounts
Jimmy Nassour wasn't of American Atheists Inc., the sure why he kept raising his hand when the bidding passed hand when the bidding passed after becoming a national fig-the \$500 limit he'd set for ure with a 1963 lawsuit that himself.

"I guess I got caught up in the moment," he said.

The auctioneer, Bob Sheehan, held aloft the small. Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Dec. 15, 1968, to Madalyn Murray O'Hair. hated woman in America."

The bidding shot past be 79, her son 44 and her S500, then \$1,000 and Nas-granddaughter 33. sour hung in there.

Finally, the bidders fell away and he found himself. The auction held Saturday the owner of Madalyn Murray came after the federal gov-O'Hair's Bihle for \$2,000.

lighted, white-metal barn on some of the \$250,000 she the northeast fringe of the owed in back taxes and to Austin suburbs were garbage other creditors. bags full of clothes and cardboard boxes and bric-a-hrac were not part of the auction. and dusty pieces of furniture

- the biggest garage sale you ever saw. Chinese dolls.

They sit in a safe-deposit box in an Austin hank a block away from the office of Roo-Bronze cowboys. Stacks of aid Ingalls, the attorney who videotapes. Souvenirs from is handling their separate world travels. Pots and pans, sale. highball glasses, decaniers, collecuble whisky bottles. And dozens of boxes of

of the worldly possessions of judgments of almost every-O'Hair, who disappeared one around her, often singling from her Austin office in out Jews and gays and hlacks. September 1995 with her She dreamed for such things granddaughter, Rohin Mur- as a "luxury apartment," ray-O'Hair, and ooe of her mink coat and a Cadillac. sons. Jon Garth Murray, leaving behind the family's three of it," she wrote in April dogs. O'Hair's medications 1953. "Work, hope - dream, and a 1985 Porsche parked at realizing there is not much

to trace them, from cell phone ture invites, promises.

calls and bank records, as far as San Antonio, where \$500,000 was withdrawn from one of the bank accounts movement O'Hair founded effectively removed prayer from public schools.

The authorities say they white Bible, a gift from sm- have no idea where the three dents at Winnitka Heights are. Some people believe they were robbed and killed, others think they may still be alive, fleeing creditors, perthe atheist leader who once haps in New Zealand, where described herself as "the most they were said to have bank accounts. If so, O'Hair would

Since then, nothing. Not a

ernment confiscated the coo-All around the dimly tents of O'Hair's home to pay

O'Hair's private papers

The diaries are a sad chronlife. O'Hair, hitter that her dreams of political influence This was all that remained never blossomed, had harsh one around her, often singling

hope the dreams will become The authorities were able realization. Yet always the fu-

This living is the pattern

Miss or Ms.? In Britain, They're Fighting Words

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

CARDIFF, Wales — Liz Shank-land, a 35-year-old public relations executive here, was thrilled to marry her loogtime love, Gerald Toms, last November. But she was themselves Dr.) Miss Blott, the not thrilled when people started to only Miss in a sea of Mr.'s on the call her by the name of a person she does not believe exists.

"At parties, people would say, much preferred Ms. hut didn't want This is Gerry Toms — and this is to unsettle anyone in the conserhis wife, Mrs. Toms, "she related. "They didn't even give me a Chris-tian name. And when I said my really Mrs. Toms. The comments grew more ex-

'Don't you think you're being rather disrespectful and rude?'

take the unusual step of huying a classified ad in her old paper.

"Although she has now publicly pledged undying love for her husband, she has oot changed her name to 'Mrs. Toms,' "the ad said.
"Instead, she will cootinue to be

knowo — persocally and professionally — as Ms. Liz Shankland, and makes no apology to the misguided fuddy-duddies who helieve that to be strange or uocooven-In its small way, Ms. Shank-

land's situatioo illustrates a larger phenomenon in Britain. It is sometimes hard, women say, 10 persuade people that you don't want to take the name of your husband (if you have one). And it is sometimes hard to get people to call you Ms. - a word that, while in wide use in some professions, still seems to carry connotations of the stereotypical bra-hurning, man-hashing, non-leg-shaving feminists who apparently so terrorized British meo in the 1960s and '70s.

"They just can't cope with Ms.," said Margaret Blott, a Loodon obstetrician in her 30s who felt compelled to use Miss wheo she began practicing medicine. (Under the British system, many of the highest-qualified doctors don't call front door of her elegant Harley Street office, said she would have vative medical establishment.

"People make all sorts of assumptions when you use Miss.' name was Liz Shankland, they'd she said. "They come in and expect say: 'You can't do that. You're someone who's 60 years old. On the other hand, Ms. does have connotations of aggressive feminist treme. "One woman said to me, overtones, and a lot of people don't

Why not? Kathy Lette, an ex-Ms. Shankland recalled — and so she decided extreme measures were called for.

The new bride, a former reporter and editor at The Western Mail here who knows the value of a well-limed media offensive decided to one of British materials. Said it's sexism, pure and simple. "When I say I want to be called Ms. Lette, "said Ms. Lette, who is martined media offensive decided to one of British's most retimed media offensive, decided to ried to one of Britain's most respected human-rights lawyers, Geoffiey Robertson, "they either ignore me, or they just go ahead and call me Mrs. Robertson, or Mrs. Lette. When you make an issue out of it, they look at you like you've turned into Lorena Bohbit."

Despite their trappings of en-lightenment, she said, British men are unreconstructed cave-dwellers. 'Womeo here have been lulled ioto a false sense of security," she

said. "When I moved here, I

thought I'd come to New Man plan-et. The mee talked about gardening and opera and quoted huge whacks of poetry. They knew Shakespeare's sonnets by heart. I thought, 'Oh, they're so sensitive.'
But it's a hig scam — they're just as sexist as Australian men, but it's much more hidden."

Part of the problem, it seems, is that Britain has always resisted what it sees as American-style called postmen, even if they hap-political correctness, a term de- pen to be female mail carriers. Mi-



No feminist, Liz Shankland merely wanted to keep her name.

PEOPLE

in absurd changes to the language. ferred to as "the Spaniard" in Britons are loath to demonstrate newspaper reports, a reference to such sensitivity, or to make such the fact that his father was a Spanchanges, themselves. Thus, women ish immigrant, and nobody seemed who deliver the mail here are still to object.

Feminism is a highly charged concept here, as it is to some in the rided as describing a ridiculously chael Partillo, the former Tory de-tortured sensitivity that has resulted fense minister, was routinely re-seem almost physically afraid of the intendent Shankland.

term. Margaret Jay, the leader of the House of Lords, recently declared in an interview with The Guardian that she was not a feminist, even. though one of her jobs is to run the government's Women's Unit, which deals with issues like education, child care and equal pay.

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"In politics, feminism is seen as negative, complaining about things, said Lady Jay, who as a bona fide baroness since her elevation to the House of Lords not longer has to bother deciding whether she wants to be Mrs., Ms. or Miss.

Even Ms. Shankland, who so objected to being seen as what she calls "part and parcel of my husband," balks at the label. She deliberately tried to make her ad playfully hyperbolic, she said, "so that people wouldn't think I was one of those raving feminists who doesn't agree with anything."

"I believe in equality and all the rest of it, but the word's just such connotations," she said. reminds people of trade unions, crew-cut hair and dungarees. give the impression that you sort of hate men.

Ms. Shankland certainly doesn's hate her husband, a superintende in the South Wales police force who came in for a hit of ribbin when her ad appeared, particularly because she had oot told him about it in advance.

"I wasn't aware that she was going to resolve the situation in such a direct and public way " Mr. Toms said. But he proclaimed himself unfazed by the experience; even when he found that the ad was inserted into the agenda at his office meeting as a joke on the day it appeared. "I don't, as a man, need to put a tag around a woman's neck to say that I'm married to her."

Has there been any fallour? 'Some people look at me like I'm somebody with two heads, but a lot of people have rung me up and saids 'Good on you,' 'Ms. Shankland' said. One other thing: 'At Gerry's office, they're calling him Super-



ENGRAVED IN SNOW — Sculpture in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, after storms.

PIFTY-ONE of the original story-boards from the 1958 film about the sinking of the Titanic, "A Night to Remember," were sold at an auction in Loodon for £2,400 (about \$3,800). The seller, the 81-year-old Robert Bell, drew the pen-and-ink sketches for the picture, made at Pinewood Studios in southern England, as his first job in the film industry. The buyer asked to remain anonymous. The Phillips auction house said the 51 storyboards used to calculate the dramatic shots and special effects leading to the sinking of the luxury liner sold for

Lisa Marie Presley has dropped her lawsuit against the National Enquirer, which bad said she was suicidal. "I am satisfied with the setthe lawsuit was designed to sund a message to tabloids that she won't tolerate publication of untruths. The Enquirer's editor, Steve Coz. was outraged by her announcement. "She

three times the minimum estimate.

is lying if she means to suggest that she proved false the 1997 article," Coz said. "If Lisa Marie wanted a public airing of the facts surrounding these matters she would not have dropped her lawsuit." Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

File McPherson was in a tight, mink-trimmed suit. Baby wore white lace. Photographers gathered outside the church of Sant'Agostino church in Rome as the model-turned-mom arrived for the baptism of 11-monthold Arpad Flynn Alexander Busson, whose father is the French financier Arpad Busson. The baptism was followed by a luncheon hosted by the baby's godfather, the indus-trialist Gianni Agnelli.

The motorcycle datedevil Evel Knievel has received a liver transplant in an operation at Tampa General Hospital in Florida. "He's in stable condition," a bospital spokes-

man, John Dunn; said, confirming the transplant. He said he was not authorized to give any details of the operation. According to a message on Knievel's official Web site (www.evelknievel.com), the operation took place on Tuesday night.

"He was in surgery most of the night.

It was completed successfully and
sage said. Knievel, 60, had hepatitis C and had been on a waiting list for a liver transplant for several months. Now retired, he became known in the 1960s and 1970s for his motorcycle stunts, which often ended in specnacular crashes,

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The wife of the conductor Andre Previn has filed for divorce. Heather Mary Previo cited "irreconcilable differences" in her divorce complaint as the reason for wanting to end the 17-year marriage. Mrs. Previn is seeking custody of the couple's 15year-old son, Lukas, and an unspecified amount of alimony and child

support. Mrs. Previn, who lives on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, with her son, sells jewelry at her Edgartown store. Preyin, whose work has earned him multiple Grammy and Academy Awards, lives in New York, Previn has been married foil times, including an eight-year marriage to the actress Mia Farrow.

More than 100 photographers took up positions overnight outside Long don's Ritz hotel tor the most elusive shot of all: Prince Charles together with his long-time lover. Carnilla Parker Bowles. Speculation reached fever pitch that the pair would leave \$ 50 ac. the hotel together on Thursday after a burnhday party for Carnilla's sister, birthday party for Carnilla's sister, Annabel Parker Bowles gave a 50th birthday party for Prince Charles in November but they have not been seen together in public, a shot that photographers say could be worth £1 million. The two have been to clubs, restaurants and friends marriages together but always kept a low profile.



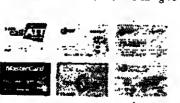
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